

Saddam orders doors open for Iranians

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, seeking better relations with Iran, has ordered Iraqi officials to cut through red tape and implement agreements enabling Iranians to visit Shi'ite Muslim shrines in Iraq. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday Saddam issued the order in a meeting with top officials held to discuss the outcome of a visit to Iran this week by Izat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council. Iraq and Iran have withdrawn their forces behind their common border, exchanged more than 75,000 prisoners of war and reopened their embassies in Tehran and Baghdad. Officials from the two countries have concluded the pilgrimage agreement, as well as agreements on resumption of air links and other matters, which await ratification. INA said the Iraqi leadership was pleased about the outcome of Ibrahim's three-day visit and "the great welcome shown the Iraqi delegation by the Muslim people of Iran, its president and all other officials."



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Douglas Hurd arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is due in Amman Sunday on a brief visit during which he will be received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. An official announcement said Saturday. It will be the second visit of Hurd to Jordan since the start of the Gulf crisis last August. He was here on Sept. 6 during which he met Prince Hassan and stated that his government supported the use of force against Iraq should economic sanctions fail to evict Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Hurd said then that the West had not been quite satisfied with Jordan's performance in adhering to economic sanctions on Iraq and called on Jordan to strictly comply with Security Council resolutions concerning U.N. sanctions. Jordanian journalists boycotted Hurd's news conference in protest against his government's stand with regard to the Gulf crisis and said they viewed British policy in the Arab region as an extension of the old British colonial attitude.

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Lower House issues appeal for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Saturday issued an appeal to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, the House of Lords and Commons in the United Kingdom, the U.N. secretary general, the speaker and members of the European Parliament calling on them to take positive steps that would avert war in the Gulf. The appeal expressed Parliament's deep concern vis-a-vis the developments in the Gulf, "which are leading towards military confrontation and the dangers inherent in a catastrophic war." The appeal said that the Gulf crisis "should be considered as an Arab-Arab dispute that can be solved within the Arab family of states by peaceful means." The statement called for pressure to be exerted on the U.S. administration and the allied nations to call for an end to the escalation in the Gulf and to opt for a peaceful solution.

Qadhafi sends top aide on Gulf mission

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, joining last-ditch attempts to avert a Gulf war, is sending his top aide to Iraq, Jordan and Iran, the official Libyan news agency JANA said Saturday. JANA said Major Abdul Salam Jalloud, Qadhafi's second-in-command, would visit the three countries as part of Libya's "last attempt to save the people of Iraq and to spare the world the disaster of destruction."

'Peace boat' unloads

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday a "peace boat" destined by blockading Western navies has been forced to unload its cargo in Oman. The Ibn Khaldoun, with 250 women peace activists as passengers and a cargo that included food, was halted in the Arabian Sea last month by Australian, British and U.S. warships.

Kaunda leaves Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda left Baghdad Saturday after another round of talks with President Saddam Hussein on ways of averting a war in the Gulf. Saddam and other senior Iraqi officials saw the Zambian leader off at the airport at the end of his three-day visit. No details of their talks were made public.

Israel says it killed 4 guerrillas

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli troops in southern Lebanon killed four guerrillas in a nighttime skirmish, the army reported Saturday. A patrol encountered the guerrillas Friday night while patrolling Israel's self-declared "security zone" and opened fire, the army command said.

Iraq denies report Aziz kept copy of Bush's letter

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has denied reports that its foreign minister took an "unofficial" copy of a letter from President George Bush which he refused to accept at talks in Geneva with his American counterpart this week. "This report is totally untrue and is an ugly slander from the part of Britain's representative at the United Nations who invented the report," the Iraqi News Agency quoted an official Foreign Ministry source as saying.

Belgian hostages return home

BRUSSELS (R) — A family of four Belgian hostages, held in the Middle East since 1987, flew home on Saturday after a Palestinian jailed here had been whisked out of the country. Belgian Television showed pictures of the Houtekins family getting out of a helicopter near the main military hospital in Brussels. Said Nasser, held for 30 years for a 1980 grenade attack, was flown out of the country in a military plane.

King: Still chance for peace in Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said there was still chance for a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis and renewed a grim warning of the consequences of a war in the region.

Going to war when there is a chance to resolve the problem through peaceful means does not make sense, the King said in an interview with the ABC Television's "Nightline" programme. "If it is not a gamble, it is walking into disaster, and I believe that this would be very cruel to all of us," the King said in the interview which was taped Friday and broadcast Saturday evening on Jordan Television.

"I will remain optimistic until the very end (that) there will not be war on Jan. 15" — the deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war — the King said. "I remain determined to serve the cause of peace," he added. "I am very, very concerned about the situation. Yet, at the same time, I will not waver in my determination to do everything

possible to avert a disaster; nor would my hope diminish that common sense would prevail... there must be a possible way to avert war..."

The King also said Jordan's Armed Forces would try to stop warplanes from any country, including Israel, from flying over Jordan in any conflict stemming from the Gulf crisis.

"We are determined to prevent any violation of our airspace or our land by any side to this conflict," King Hussein said.

Asked whether the policy also applied to Iraqi aircraft, he said: "We are not giving our airspace to be used by any side if we can help it. And our means are limited, but we certainly do not want Jordan to become a battlefield for any."

"We would definitely try and stop any Israeli aircraft flying over us," King Hussein said, referring to speculation that a clash between Iraq and Israel might develop if fighting breaks out in the U.S.-led attempt to force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

He said the policy applied to "any flights from any direction towards any other target surrounding us."

King Hussein said it was probably true that Jordan had deployed more troops in the Jordan Valley facing Israel than there have been at any time since the 1967 war.

"But the formations deployed in the Jordan Valley are the formations allocated to the defence of Jordan in that direction, and the other formations are also alerted to be ready to stop any side... from using Jordanian territory towards achieving any target beyond Jordan."

King Hussein said the mission of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to Iraq was important and expressed hope that the visit will contribute towards solving the Gulf crisis. The King said nobody expected last week's talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to produce miracles.

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Syria pledges to stand by Iraq if it leaves Kuwait

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday that he would fight alongside Iraq if it was attacked after withdrawal from Kuwait.

The Syrian leader made his pledge shortly before holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is touring the region to rally Arab support against Iraq.

Syria, at odds with Iraq for years, sent thousands of troops to join the U.S.-led multinational force ranged against Iraq and has urged Baghdad to obey the U.N.

"I would like to make a brotherly pledge that cannot be doubted that if an attack is launched against Iraq after it withdraws from Kuwait, Syria will stand alongside Iraq and fight..."

King voices appreciation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday expressed appreciation of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's good feelings expressed in his message to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The King, in a telephone call to Mr. Assad, affirmed the importance of joining all efforts to avert a war and to reach a political settlement of the Gulf crisis.

until victory," Assad's message said.

"A decision you take to dismantle the crisis and avert Iraq and the Arab Nation from the

dangers of a devastating war would be recorded for you as an appropriate courageous action made at the right moment," Assad said in what appeared to be an attempt at reconciliation.

"Any harm that afflicts Iraq, in one way or another, Syria and the Arab World," he said. "Differences fade away between brothers in such a dangerous situation."

In the appeal by Assad, read by an announced over state-run Damascus Radio, Assad urged Saddam to put aside years of enmity between them and "listen to the advice of a brother."

He told Saddam: "I am not making this appeal to embarrass anyone, but I am appealing to a live conscience to deny our enemy the opportunity for which

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Parliament mandates Gorbachev to seek peace

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet parliament mandated President Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday to pursue efforts with Iraq and the United States aimed at finding a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis.

Deputies backed a resolution recommending that Gorbachev "carry out additional steps with the Iraqi leadership, the United States and other parties involved in the interests of using political means of doing away with this sharp centre of tension in the 'Persian Gulf'."

It did not specify what these additional steps might be.

As the U.S. Congress wrestled Saturday with the decision on whether to give President

George Bush the authority to wage war, the Supreme Soviet voted 312-27 to adopt the resolution which also expressed its desire to be consulted on Soviet actions in the Gulf.

"The USSR Supreme Soviet confirms, that decisions connected with any form of military participation of the Soviet Union in the conflict in accordance with the USSR constitution can be taken only with the agreement of the USSR Supreme Soviet," the resolution said.

Since Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, the Soviet Union has supported United Nations

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Yemen sends message on Gulf crisis to Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — An envoy of Yemen's president said Saturday he came to Cairo to further efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He expressed optimism that war can be averted.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani, told reporters he gave President Hosni Mubarak a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The meeting with Mubarak was just before the Egyptian leader conferred with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Saleh's message "dealt with the present situation in the region and ways of resolving the Gulf crisis," Iryani said. He added that he was returning home Saturday with Mubarak's reply.

The minister refused to di-

vide details of the presidential exchange. Asked about Yemen's concept of a peaceful Gulf settlement, he replied: "This is the object of my mission here. I cannot say more."

Asked whether he was optimistic after seeing Mubarak, Al Iryani said: "I came to Cairo optimistic, and I am leaving it optimistic." The Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted him as saying in reply to a question whether he feels war can be avoided: "Yes, yes, I am optimistic."

He did not say what prompted his optimism.

Yemen opposed Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. But by showing some sympathy towards Iraq, the government in Sanaa

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Qadhafi seeks urgent Security Council session

ROME (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi telephoned Premier Giulio Andreotti Saturday seeking Italian support for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council enlarged to include Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries. Italian news media reported.

Qadhafi described himself as "distressed" over the growing tensions in the Gulf and said he intended to also contact French President Francois Mitterrand and Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, the reports said. Spokesmen in Paris and Madrid said later the Libyan leader had made these contacts.

Andreotti reportedly assured Qadhafi that Italy favoured any initiative that might halt the course to war in the Gulf.

Italian officials were not immediately available in their offices but had announced Friday that Qadhafi intended to call Andreotti.

The Libyan leader has condemned both the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the buildup of multinational forces in the Gulf.

Mitterrand's spokesman said later the president held weekend telephone talks with Libyan and Canadian leaders to try to find a way to head off a Gulf war.

Hubert Vedrine said Mitterrand spoke with Qadhafi Saturday morning. He had a similar

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Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar answer reporters' questions at Amman airport Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Saddam, U.N. chief hold talks today; Iraqi parliament to meet tomorrow

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Baghdad Saturday for talks with President Saddam Hussein, and the Iraqi National Assembly was summoned for an emergency session Monday.

Baghdad Radio did not give the purpose of the assembly session, to be held on the eve of the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a possible military strike.

U.N. officials in New York said Mr. Perez de Cuellar would not meet with President Saddam until Sunday.

Iraqi officials said Mr. Perez de Cuellar was welcome, but reiterated that there was no change in Iraq's refusal to pull out of Kuwait.

Perez de Cuellar was greeted at the airport by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The U.N. chief met with His Majesty King Hussein in Amman before travelling to Iraq. He told reporters at the airport

in Amman that he would discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis with Iraqi officials with an "open mind and good will."

Perez de Cuellar gained European support Friday for his proposal to send a U.N. peacekeeping force to the Gulf if Iraq and the allied forces in Saudi Arabia both pulled back.

Asked in Amman if he was optimistic about the Iraqi talks, he said: "I am always hopeful." "It is a historic mission. We have the impression that the Iraqis will be very receptive," Jordan's foreign minister, Taher Al Masri, said after the secretary-general's departure.

Masri said Perez de Cuellar carried "no plans, but has ideas" on how to tackle the confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.-dominated multinational force.

"I will need to tell the president of Iraq, the authorities and the people how eager the international community is in seeing peace prevail and in seeing that my mission has not been a use-

less mission but one of peace," Perez de Cuellar said.

He met twice with King Hussein and said the talks were "very useful."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported after the first round that both men "stressed the need to continue efforts for a political solution to the crisis."

Perez de Cuellar denied on arrival from Geneva Friday that he was carrying a specific peace plan but said he might propose an U.N. peacekeeping force to replace foreign forces in the Gulf.

Portugal's foreign minister said after a meeting of his European Community colleagues with the U.N. chief in Geneva that Perez de Cuellar was carrying a five-point plan that included the removal of U.S.-led multinational forces.

"I bring not only goodwill and the wish for a peaceful solution but I am also persuaded I am bringing the wishes of the international community for a peace-

ful solution," the U.N. chief told reporters at Baghdad airport.

He said he did not know how long he would be in Baghdad.

Arab diplomats in Baghdad said contacts were being made to arrange a meeting between Perez de Cuellar and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

"King Hussein has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to me," Perez de Cuellar said at the airport.

"During my visit to Baghdad, I will deal with all the aspects of the crisis in an open mind since good intentions is a basic element for any move by the U.N. secretary general," Perez de Cuellar added.

During the meetings here King Hussein emphasised the role of the United Nations in efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and all problems in the area and underlined the importance of the Baghdad visit undertaken by the

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Palestinians urge U.N. action in appeal to Perez de Cuellar

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, received during his one-day stop in Amman Mr. Ibrahim Bakr, chairman of the Committee for Palestinian Deportees, who handed him a memorandum concerning the Israeli policy of deportation of Palestinians.

In his meeting with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, which was attended by the committee's vice chairman, Dr. Hanna Nasir, Mr. Bakr stressed the need for the implementation of all United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning Palestine on the basis that international legality cannot be applied selectively.

"At a time when the world community is pressing for implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis, we are perturbed that an alliance of governments — headed by the U.S.A. — is ignoring the resolutions that they took themselves concerning the Palestinian issue," read the memo which the two Palestinian leaders, who are themselves deportees from the West Bank handed to the U.N. chief. "We thus appeal to you that the Palestinian problem be addressed on the same footing with the Gulf crisis so that there will be no double standards in dealing with the United Nations resolutions."

The following is the full text of the memo:

The "Committee for Palestinian Deportees" wishes to express their hopes that your present visit to the area will help bring about a peaceful settlement to all conflicts in this region. We also wish to take the opportunity of your visit to alert to the continuing violation of

Congress authorises Bush to use force against Iraq EC plans own peace initiative

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — An anguished and deeply divided Congress lined Saturday to give President George Bush authority to wage war in the Gulf, and leading lawmakers urged national unity in the wake of the decision.

The Senate voted 52-47 to empower Bush to "use United States armed forces" to expel Iraq from Kuwait. The lower house of the bicameral Congress was expected to follow suit a short time later.

"This is the practical equivalent of a war resolution," Thomas Foley, the top ranking member of the Lower House, said as the House and Senate solemnly rejected calls for continued reliance on diplomacy and economic sanctions to force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Those votes — 53-16 in the Senate and 250-183 in the House — served as prelude to formal

roll calls authorising Bush to "use United States armed forces" to expel Iraq. Congress is controlled by Democrats: Bush is a Republican.

Lawmakers faced their starkest war-and-peace choice in a half century, and their concern was reflected in their comments. "We have not gone the last mile for peace, and until we do the United States Senate should never, never, never vote for war," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a leading Democrat.

But others said Iraq's refusal to withdraw its troops from Kuwait left them no choice.

"Sanctions without a credible military threat would never have any impact," said Senate Republican leader Bob Dole.

The president awaited Congress' verdict at his Camp David presidential retreat.

Hundreds of ordinary citizens stood in line under a leaden sky outside the capital, waiting for a

chance to watch a few moments of history from the visitors' galleries inside.

A small band of protesters demonstrated with anti-war placards nearby, and security in the building was unusually tight.

Sen. Sam Nunn, a Democrat who fought granting Bush authority, said: "If war does occur, speaking for myself, I will support our American military forces with whatever they need to prevail."

But others said the close votes reflected the division of public opinion around the nation.

"There's no national consensus to go to war," said Rep. Ron Dellums, a Democrat. "If the president chooses to do that, then he takes a divided nation into battle."

As it moved towards its ultimate decision, the Senate rejected 53-46 a competing resolu-

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Jordan willing to relax border closure if preconditions met

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is willing to relax the closure of its border for foreign nationals leaving Iraq and Kuwait subject to certain conditions being met on individual government-to-government basis to ensure the evacuees' welfare and prompt departure from the Kingdom, official and diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The prior conditions, described as "conditional precautions," were explained to the heads of diplomatic missions in Amman of countries with sizeable number of their nationals and representatives of various international agencies during a meeting with the Evacuee Welfare Committee, officials said.

The three main conditions, according to the officials, are that the Evacuee Welfare Committee

is informed in advance of expected arrivals at the Al Ruweisah border post, that the respective governments undertake to pay all expenses for feeding and transporting the evacuees and that any international agency or government guarantee their departure from Jordan within a predetermined period of time.

Ambassador Sami Farraj, a member of the Evacuee Welfare Committee, was quoted as telling Saturday's meeting that Jordan's decision, announced Wednesday, to close its borders for evacuees was "misinterpreted and misreported."

"Jordan, which finds itself in a very difficult situation in view of the problems it faces in being reimbursed for the funds it spent on evacuees between August and December, is unable to cope with any massive wave of people across the border without inter-

national support for their food, transport and prompt passage home," this was the message relayed to the meeting by Mr. Farraj, according to a diplomatic source.

"So, as long as the concerned governments are ready to undertake written guarantees that their nationals would not impose a burden on Jordanian resources and that the evacuees leave Jordanian territory as soon as possible, then Jordan is willing to allow evacuees to cross the border into the Kingdom," the source said.

This account was confirmed by Jordanian official sources, who pointed out that the cash-strapped Kingdom had spent over \$56 million on evacuees since August but received only \$12 million in reimbursement.

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Carter calls for peace conference

ATLANTA (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, saying a Gulf war was not inevitable, Friday urged the convening of a peace conference by Washington and Moscow to settle Middle East disputes including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Carter, who mediated the 1978 Camp David accords which produced the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, said in a written statement that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait in line with United Nations requirements but added that other regional disputes could still be negotiated.

"Reasonable concessions required by all contending parties are insignificant when compared with the destruction of war. It is not too late," he declared.

Carter, who left the White House in 1981 after his defeat by Ronald Reagan, said war was "neither inevitable nor necessary to resolve the Gulf crisis" but added that "Iraq's obduracy and U.S. quibbling over dates and 'linkage' have moved us slowly but inexorably toward military action."

However, the thaw in relations between Israel and the Soviet Union has made it possible for an international peace conference on the Middle East to be held under joint U.S.-Soviet sponsorship, he said.

"There is no reason why the international community should not accept the concept of a peace conference to deal with broader regional issues, including the attempt for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question," Carter declared.

"Israeli concerns about biased convenors can be largely assuaged by U.S.-Soviet bilateral sponsorship now that relatively good Israeli relations with the Soviet Union have evolved.

"If necessary to save face, (the U.S.) can continue to deny what everyone knows: That linkage does exist," he added.

Anti-war movement

The widow of U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Friday called for a new anti-war movement to be launched Jan. 15, the date of her assassinated husband's birthday and the U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face force.

Coretta Scott King, wife of the Nobel Peace prize-winner killed in 1968, said next week's commemorations of King's birthday and the Jan. 21, American holiday honouring King would be good days to renew an anti-war movement like the 1960s opposition to the Vietnam war.

She said acts of civil disobedience to oppose a U.S.-led war in the Gulf may become appropriate if fighting begins.

"Even if the administration waits until the 16th or later before launching a military offensive, war against Iraq will still be wrong.... Mrs. King told a news conference.

"And so I'm urging everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of peace to use this holiday to launch a new anti-war movement that will not rest until a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the Persian Gulf is secured. I can think of no more fitting tribute to his memory," she added.

Pope says peace still possible in Mideast

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul said on Saturday there was still time to ensure peace in the Gulf and warned that a war would mean "the decline of all humanity."

"The real friends of peace know that now, more than ever, is the hour for dialogue, negotiation, and the pre-eminence of international law," he told diplomats accredited to the Vatican, including the Iraqi, Kuwaiti and U.S. envoys.

"Yes, peace is still possible. War would be the decline of all humanity," he told the 126 envoys in his annual "State of the World" address.

He branded Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait "brutal" and "unacceptable" but also seemed to suggest that a war fought to liberate it might cause death and devastation disproportionate to the harm inflicted by the invasion.

The Pope strongly defended the rights of Palestinians but did not directly link their plight to the Gulf crisis as Iraq has done.

He also warned of the aftermath of war in the Gulf, saying that "peace obtained by arms would only prepare new violence."

"On the one hand we have seen the armed invasion of a country and a brutal violation of international law... these are unacceptable facts," the Pope said.

"On the other hand, while the massive concentration of men and weapons... aims to end what must be called aggression, there is no doubt that even if it was to result in a limited military action, the operations would be particularly deadly."

He said the ecological, political, economic and strategic consequences of a Gulf war could not yet be calculated.

More than a third of the 19-page speech was dedicated to the Middle East. After reading it, the Pope spent more time talking with Iraqi Ambassador Wisam Chawkat Al Zahawi than with other envoys.

The pontiff suggested that the church's traditional concept of a "just war" — in which wars could be fought for self-defence but must be proportionate to the offence suffered — had been blurred by the tremendous power of modern weaponry.

"The use of force for a just cause would only be acceptable if this use was proportionate to the objective and if one weighed the consequences which military actions, rendered always more devastating by modern technology, would have for the survival of populations and of the planet itself," he said.

As the Pope addressed the envoys, the Vatican released the text of a telegram he sent to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressing the hope that his vital peace mission to Baghdad would see "dialogue, reason and right prevail."

The U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war expires next Tuesday.

The Pope said Palestinians, including those in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, had been "gravely tried and unjustly treated" for decades.

"They are a people who ask to be heard," he said.

Geagea says Karami cabinet should quit

BEIRUT (R) — The chief of Lebanon's, strongest militia urged the country's newly formed unity cabinet to resign after facing opposition from rival Christian and Muslim leaders, a local newspaper reported Saturday.

"The basic factors for the existence of this government have gone... it is far from being a national reconciliation cabinet. It should resign," Samir Geagea, head of the hardline Lebanese Force (LF) militia, told Al Diyar newspaper.

Geagea and his ally, Falange Party leader George Saadeh,

have refused to take up their posts in the 30-member cabinet, saying it had too many members close to Syria which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon.

The head of the 10,000-man LF was commenting on the resignation from the cabinet on Friday of Druze leader Walid Junblatt, minister of state and head of the Damascus-backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Junblatt said he quit for "personal reasons" but political sources said discontent over the Druze representation in the cabinet of Prime Minister Omar

Karami was the main cause. Karami rejected the resignation and urged the PSP chairman to contribute to the national reconciliation process.

"The government is not up to the required standard. Junblatt's resignation is only the beginning and I think this unbalanced cabinet will stumble even more," Geagea said.

"It is no more a reconciliation government because the rival leaders who were supposed to make peace through this cabinet have abandoned it," he added.

The LF and the PSP have been fighting each other since

civil war erupted in 1975. The Christian and Druze opposition deepened a government crisis and dealt a blow to an Arab-backed peace pact that stipulates the formation of a unity cabinet, disbanding the militias and strengthening links with Syria.

Junblatt said Lebanon faced a "black future" despite President Elias Hrawi's announcement Thursday that the 15-year-old civil war, which killed more than 150,000 people, was over.

Karami's government earlier this week won a vote of confidence at a poorly attended session of parliament.

Rebels warn of attacks on U.S. bases in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels threatened on Saturday to launch attacks against U.S. bases in the Philippines if war breaks out in the Middle East.

The National Democratic Front in a statement sent to news agencies also warned President Corason Aquino's government of rebel attacks for allowing the transit of U.S. troops and ships en route to the Gulf.

The front is an umbrella of 11 underground Marxist groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

"The National Democratic

Front of the Philippines serve notice today that if war breaks out in the Gulf after Jan. 15 as threatened by the United States, the U.S. and the Aquino regime must bear the consequences of their acts," Luis Jalandoni, the front's spokesman, said in the statement.

"The Aquino government has been allowing the U.S. military bases in the Philippines to be used in America's interventionist and aggressive designs in the Gulf and in the entire Middle East," Jalandoni said.

In December, a 13-ship

amphibious task force with 7,500 U.S. marines conducted live-fire exercises at the Subic Bay naval base west of Manila and then loaded supplies before sailing for the Middle East to join the U.S.-organised forces arrayed against Iraq.

Jalandoni said the Aquino government has done nothing to ensure the safety of some 500,000 Filipino workers who remain in the Gulf area as the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or risk attack draws near.

Jalandoni, a defrocked Ro-

man Catholic priest now based in the Netherlands, where the front maintains its headquarters, accused the government of risking the lives of the Filipinos in the Middle East because it depends on the earnings they remit to the country.

"In the last few days and weeks, we have heard and seen nothing but double-talk and hypocrisy on the part of the Aquino government," said Jalandoni. "The net effect of its actions has been to harm the Filipino people and the Iraqi and other Arab people."

Situation remains unclear in Mogadishu

NAIROBI (AP) — Italy, using two aircraft, finally evacuated its embassy in the capital of war-torn Somalia in a second attempt Saturday.

"The planes have evacuated everyone who was at the embassy. They are on the way here and we are rushing to the airport," said an official of the Italian consulate in Mombasa, an Indian Ocean port town in Kenya.

The Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome said Friday that 30 staff members, 20 other Italians and 10 people of other nationalities had taken shelter in the embassy.

Reports said some were injured and one, a Korean, may have been killed.

The C-130 Hercules and a

G-222 aircraft earlier flew to Mogadishu but were unable to land because of heavy fighting around the airport and returned to Mombasa, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

It was not clear what in the capital was controlled by government forces, or by rebels fighting them, and an Italian embassy spokeswoman in Nairobi said she had no information on whether fighting had intensified since Friday.

The rebels, seeking to end president Mohammad Siad Barre's 21-year rule, claim they control most of the city except the airport, where they say Siad Barre is holed up.

Other reports have said that

Siad Barre escaped to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) but were later denied. His whereabouts could not be confirmed.

Somalia's foreign minister, on a visit to Egypt, said Saturday that Siad Barre is still in his country and remains in control.

"The situation in Mogadishu is not as bad as the media portrays it," Ahmad Mohammad Adeb Qaybeh was quoted as saying by the Egyptian government-run Middle East News Agency (MENA).

The embassy came under fire Thursday night, and there were a few injuries, Alessandro Di Franco, a spokesman for Italy's Foreign Ministry in Rome, said Friday. A Korean might have been killed, he said. He had no

further details. He said there had been an explosion but was "not sure what it was exactly. It might have been a grenade."

Fighting broke on Dec. 30. The rebel United Somali Congress (USC) says more than 1,500 people have been killed and thousands more wounded in two weeks of fighting.

The insurgents appealed to Italy to send food, medicine and medical equipment to Mogadishu.

Foreign Minister Qaybeh, who was due to meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abd Meguid later Saturday, made similar appeal to Arab and other nations. He said his country threatened by famine.

Tens of thousands march for peace

BONN (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of demonstrators filled Europe's streets, parks and market squares Saturday, in a scene reminiscent of the '60s, to protest against threatened war in the Gulf.

"No blood for oil," was a familiar slogan on hundreds of banners at numerous rallies throughout Germany, where protesters called for more dialogue and a halt to the Jan. 15 countdown to possible war.

Tens of thousands of protesters marched down Berlin's fashionable Kurfurstendamm shopping avenue, chanting anti-war slogans.

They rolled about a dozen oil barrels down the street to show their disdain for a war they said was prompted by a fight over Middle East oil.

Others blamed German industries for fuelling conflict in the world: "German weapons, Ger-

man money are involved in murders in the whole world," said one large banner carried by protesters.

In London, police said about 15,000 people joined a march from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square.

Opposition Labour Party lawmaker Tony Benn told the Trafalgar gathering the United States was trying to protect "the interests of U.S. oil multinationalists" and that "hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children could well be slaughtered."

In Glasgow, Scotland, about 6,000 joined a peace demonstration at the city's central George Square.

"Let us be under no illusion," said Tam Dalyell, an ex-Labour Party lawmaker. "If this war comes, it will be like no other war that has ever happened."

Rome police estimated 30,000

people joined in an anti-war rally Saturday afternoon organised mainly by Italian Communist Party.

"For oil they want a massacre, this is the goal of the USA and NATO," protesters shouted.

"Solidarity with the people of Iraq," and "Western troops get out — infitida in the whole Mideast," they added.

Little children, accompanied by their parents, wore sandwich boards proclaiming, "Italy, repudiates war."

And protesters from the Italian city of Assisi, the "city of peace," sold small cloth banners with "Peace is Possible" printed on them.

In Frankfurt, an estimated 20,000 people filled the city's main square. One German radio station estimated the crowd at 10,000.

The protests came as the last U.S. diplomats to leave Bag-

dad arrived at Frankfurt airport. Fifteen thousand protesters turned out in the northern German port city of Hamburg; police said they had prepared for 3,000.

In Dortmund, protesters formed a 900-metre-long human chain extending from the city's Friedensplatz, or Peace Square, to a local military office.

About 150 banners filled Munich's Marienplatz, where around 10,000 demonstrators gathered to criticise the United States, NATO, the German government and Turkey.

About 1,000 protesters assembled in Bonn's Muensterplatz, where under the stern gaze of a statue of Beethoven, the city's native son, protest leaders accused the United States, Germany, Britain and their allies of oversimplifying the Gulf conflict and risking innocent lives in a fight for power and oil.

Confusion prevails over timing of Gulf deadline

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Everyone agrees that Iraq has until midnight Jan. 15, the end of Tuesday, to obey U.N. Security Council resolutions requiring it to withdraw from Kuwait. The problem is, there's no agreement on when that is.

The "use of force" resolution demands that Baghdad "fully implements" all council resolutions on the invasion of Kuwait "on or before Jan. 15, 1991."

That means the troop withdrawal must be under way and the ousted Kuwaiti government must be restored by midnight, diplomats agree.

But midnight where, and when? New York time? Or Kuwaiti-Saudi Arabia-Iraq time? The resolution gives no clue.

It makes an eight-hour differ-

ence.

In Taif, Saudi Arabia, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told American combat pilots Friday that "we pass the brink" of war with Iraq precisely at midnight next Tuesday.

"Now as the clock ticks down to midnight Jan. 15," he said, "I cannot give you a definitive answer. But I can tell you that you will not have to wait much longer for an answer to that question."

"Just so there is no misunderstanding," Baker said. "Let me be absolutely clear: We pass the brink at midnight, Jan. 15."

But Baker's precise terms left a question whether he meant midnight in the Gulf or in Washington, which occurs eight hours later than in Iraq and Kuwait, or possibly some other

time zone.

At first, U.S. officials travelling with Baker in Cairo said they did not know for sure. But a few hours later they said the deadline was Tuesday at midnight U.S. Eastern Standard Time (0500 GMT) Wednesday.

That is in line with a unilateral declaration by the French Foreign Ministry earlier this week that the deadline expires by midnight New York time, where the resolution was adopted Nov. 29.

The president of the Security Council sided with the French, opting for a New York expiration of the midnight deadline.

But a Canadian diplomat, speaking privately, noted that the first resolutions denouncing the attack refers to the Aug. 2 invasion, even though the coun-

cil passed it late on Aug. 1 in New York.

That, he said, appeared to fix the time reference to Middle Eastern events on the ground.

A Japanese TV crew roamed the corridors of the U.N. on Friday trying to pin down the question, grabbing diplomats and even reporters and bystanders — of various nationalities and asking for their interpretations.

The question is vexing the news media. Newspapers want to be able to set massive "U.N. deadline expires" headline in type for their own deadlines — but can't get a definitive time ruling.

Many diplomats say that since the United Nations is not declaring a war or a ceasefire, an exact time is unnecessary.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Teletext
16:00 News in English
16:30 Koran
16:35 Programme review
16:45 Children programmes
17:35 Sports programme
18:00 News summary
18:10 Local programme
19:50 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Dorothea
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mother and Son
21:30
22:00 Sweets of the Sun - Tears of the Moon
22:00 News in English
22:30 Paradise

PRAYER TIMES

06:51 Fair
06:52 (Sunrise) Duka
11:44 Dhur
14:33 'Asr
16:56 Maghreb
18:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweithel Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 659322.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain, particularly in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom. Winds will be southeasterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khalid Mu'addi 743500
Dr. Amr Hawandoli 77665
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawra 732056
Dr. Saad Abu Hatab 649846
Fawcett pharmacy 661912
Fawcett pharmacy 775336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nayroukh pharmacy 626772
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 64945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 626800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 649131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664446
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6624940
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:45 Doha (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
11:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

14:05 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Tripoli (LN)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
16:00 Doha, Muscat (GF)
20:25 Sanaa (LF)

MARKET PRICES

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Tripoli (LN)
20:30 Dubai (EK)
20:30 Frankfurt (LH)
20:30 Beirut (ME)

Up-to-date price in Jds per kg.

Apple 200 / 480
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Makassar) 450 / 400
Beans 300 / 250
Cabbage 90 / 50
Carrot 220 / 180
Cauliflower 200 / 140
Corn 220 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 300
Dates 500 / 400
Garlic 200 / 150
Lemon 1900 / 1700
Mallow 200 / 140
Marrow (large) 180 / 120
Marrow (small) 150 / 100
Onion (dry) 300 / 250
Onion (green) 160 / 120
Okra 600 / 500
Orange 400 / 300
Pepper (hot) 240 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 140 / 100
Potato 310 / 260
Radish 450 / 350
Sage 180 / 120
Spinach 140 / 100
Tomatoes 200 / 150

Embassy personnel leave, quite a few opt to stay on

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The diplomatic community in Jordan has shrunk to a bare minimum with the departure this week of dozens of non-essential staff and dependents under travel advisories issued by their governments head of Monday's deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war.

On the other hand, there are also quite a few diplomatic staff and non-essential officials who have opted to stay on in the country on a voluntary basis after being given a choice to leave.

Western diplomats have been insisting that they were not under any strict government order to leave Jordan, but it appeared Saturday that many countries had indeed ordered out all non-essential staff as well as dependents.

If anything, some governments have also extended their travel advisories to ask their nationals living in Jordan to leave the Kingdom, according to circulars obtained by the Jordan Times.

The situation with international staff of the U.N. also appeared to have changed since Monday when it was reported that the world body was not planning any evacuation but had left it to the individuals to voluntarily repatriate their family members and dependents.

Europe and U.S.-bound planes were full Thursday and Friday with dependents and family members of diplomats and international staffers of the U.N., according to airline

sources.

For many others the destination was Cyprus following what was described by a U.N. source as "a strong suggestion" that the international staff move their families and dependents out of Jordan in contrast to an "advice for voluntary repatriation" early last week.

In cases where family members or dependents chose to remain in Amman, U.N. procedures call for a "waiver" in which the concerned staff member absolves the world body of all responsibilities.

It also appeared Saturday that many governments had issued the new travel advisories to their diplomatic missions following what was widely perceived in the West as the failure of Wednesday's talks in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The number of diplomats at the American Embassy was cut to around 20 by Saturday, sources said. "Some of those leaving were shifted to other Middle Eastern countries while others were recalled home," said one of the sources.

The French ambassador here, Denis Bouchard, took the unusual step of calling in the press early Saturday to explain the status of his country's nationals after a special Air France plane flew home 143 French passport holders early Friday.

The ambassador said the total number of French nationals living in Jordan stood at 440 prior to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Around half of them were French women married to Jordanians and others included

diplomats and their families and expatriates working in the Kingdom.

"For the French women married to Jordanians, Jordan is home and most of them remain here," Mr. Bouchard said estimating at around 200 the number of French nationals remaining here as of Saturday after the scheduled departure later in the day of around 20 to 25 people aboard a regular Air France flight to Paris.

"France considers Jordan as a very friendly country and we are confident that the Jordanian authorities are capable of ensuring our security," he said. The evacuation of the French nationals, he stressed, is only a "precautionary measure" which does not reflect on the security situation in the Kingdom.

Similar statements were made by most European diplomatic missions in Amman.

Spain flew home 160 of its citizens Saturday.

The Spaniards, mostly women married to Jordanians and their children, flew out aboard two Hercules Transport planes sent by the Madrid government.

Asian and Third World diplomatic missions have taken steps to keep a close track of their nationals living in the Kingdom. But no definite travel advisories have been issued by any of the Asian countries.

Some Asian countries have expressed concern that it might be almost impossible to fly in charter planes to Jordan if emergency evacuation becomes necessary. "But at this point in time we don't believe that would ever be necessary," said a senior Asian diplomat.

King honours outgoing Tunisian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred the Jordanian Independence medal of the first order on Abdul Latif Laraki, Morocco's ambassador to Jordan, on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty to the Kingdom. A Royal Court announcement said that the medal was in recognition of Laraki's distinguished efforts to bolster Jordanian-Moroccan relations.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri presented the medal to the outgoing ambassador at a lunch he held in his honour and attended by Senior Foreign Ministry officials and heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan.

Laraki has served as his country's ambassador to Jordan since February 1982.

Prince Hassan, Steel discuss Gulf, Euro-Arab cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday received in his office the British Liberal Democrats Party Spokesman David Steel and the accompanying delegation.

Prince Hassan briefed Mr. Steel and the delegation on the dangers of a war in the Gulf region and stressed the need to avoid military confrontation.

He also briefed them on Jordan's stand and on the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Prince Hassan discussed with Mr. Steel and the delegation the prospects of activating the Arab-European dialogue and enhancing cooperation between them.

Qadhafi

(Continued from page 1)

conversation with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney the previous night.

"He is continuing his consultations over the Gulf crisis," Vedrine said, without giving details.

Diplomatic sources said Mitterrand's call to Mulroney appeared related to a possible Canadian role in the event of a U.N. peace-keeping operation in Kuwait.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, on a last-hope peace mission to Baghdad, has hinted he would propose such a force if Iraq agrees to pull out of Kuwait.

France, which Iraq considers a credible Western partner, has emerged as a possible final arbiter in attempts to persuade Iraq to make a commitment, at least, to leave Kuwait.

Mitterrand has not ruled out a personal visit to Baghdad if all other diplomatic overtures fail and French political leaders from communists to rightists voiced support for the idea.

The rare consensus reflects a growing anti-war movement in France.

A spokesman said in Madrid the Spanish government's position on the Libyan initiative was that it was one more of many laudable initiatives currently under way to stave off war.

He stressed that Spain fully supports the Saturday visit to Baghdad by Perez de Cuellar. Spain's view is that the starting point for any peace proposal must be that Iraq give a clear and unequivocal signal that it accepts the U.N. resolutions demanding it withdraw from Kuwait and that it will comply with them.

Qadhafi has also sent a message to United Nations officials warning of what he said is the threat of a military strike by Israel against Iraq, Jordan and Syria, the Libyan news agency reported.

Qadhafi's message was sent to the U.N. secretary-general and to the president of the U.N. Security Council, according to the JANA news agency report.

"At this critical stage during which international security and peace are facing a very serious threat because of the explosive situation in the Gulf, we would like to draw attention to the danger of an Israeli military attack against Iraq, Jordan and Syria," JANA quoted the message as saying.

Hospitals ready to deal with emergencies; coordination plan ready; role of citizen stressed

Civil Defence in full gear for worst case scenario in Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil defence centres' readiness to deal with emergency situations was tested Saturday through direct contacts between the Higher Council of Civil Defence, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Salem Masaadeh, and various centres in charge of dealing with civil defence operations, according to Masaadeh.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the higher council Saturday set up special operation rooms and committees in various government departments and defined the role of each operation room under all circumstances.

Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last August, Jordan has been passing through unusual circumstances and has been living in a state of alert and reflecting over the coming events and the situation in the whole region, Mr. Masaadeh said in his statement following the Higher Civil Defence Council meeting.

The meeting, he said, reviewed various preparations taken by the government departments and institutions to deal with any emergency.

Readiness of various departments to deal with emergencies was reviewed and measures to

reduce any damage in case of danger were discussed in detail, said the minister.

The committees set up at Saturday's meeting, Masaadeh said, have been entrusted with the task of arranging for safety of personnel, discovering problems that should be overcome in the process of providing for safety and will distribute essential information on various measures to be adopted as part of safety regulations in all regions of the country.

These committees, he said, will coordinate matters with operation rooms and the Higher Civil Defence Council. He noted that the ordinary citizens' role was very important, especially during military operations and disasters, and therefore the higher council would, as of Sunday, broadcast special programmes on safety and precautionary measures to the public through the media and the information services.

The minister said that the committees would be holding seminars and providing useful information to the public about first aid and emergency situations.

Masaadeh expressed satisfaction with the ability of various

departments to shoulder their duties in times of emergency.

Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis Jordan has been carrying out training programmes and training recruits for the People's Army in conformity with directives by His Majesty King Hussein.

The Health Ministry has taken measures to deal with emergencies and has adopted a plan for all government hospitals to be ready to offer assistance and services to the public, according to Dr. Mustafa Al Barmawi, director general of the Hospitals Management Department at the Ministry of Health.

Dr. Barmawi said that complete coordination exists between hospitals and health centres in various regions through a special operation room which will follow up the implementation of emergency plans with various departments.

"The plan provides for measures to facilitate the transportation of casualties to hospitals and dealing with dangerous and emergency cases in the shortest possible time," Dr. Barmawi added.

Hospitals run by the Ministry of Health have made arrangements for extra beds to be instal-

led at the warehouses in case they are needed, and sufficient ambulances have been placed on standby; special power generators and extra water tanks have been supplied for emergency, according to Barmawi.

The Civil Defence Department Saturday conducted a drill for evacuating the Ministry of Education personnel from the offices in accordance with a special plan prepared by the ministry's civil defence committee.

According to the ministry's Secretary General Al Masri, a similar exercise will be conducted in the northern city of Irbid.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) later Saturday issued a call to the members of the public urging citizens to train themselves in the first aid and fire fighting operations which, it said, are useful at any time; it appealed to Jordanians to cooperate closely with the CDD teams, to refrain from using telephones in emergencies, unless it is important to request help, to stay calm and follow CDD instructions, to facilitate the operations of CDD teams and to help CDD teams provide protection and rescue operations for all regions.

Pro-Iraqi, anti-U.S. demonstration expected to draw record participants

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A massive popular demonstration against the U.S. and in solidarity with Iraq, scheduled Monday, is expected to gather the highest number of participants in Jordan since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, organisers said Saturday.

Billed as the "march of anger," the demonstration will for the first time include both the Islamic movements and the leftist and nationalist groups, thus expecting tens of thousands from across the Kingdom to take part in the demonstration which will be provided for those in remote areas.

The march is scheduled to start from the Professional Associations Complex at 1:30 p.m. and end at the Amman national stadium at the Sports City at 3 p.m.; at the stadium, speakers representing all political groups will address the demonstrators at a rally.

Although previous reports said that the demonstration, organised by the professional association, would head towards the American Embassy to protest, the organisers decided against it, Tayseer Himsi, head of the Jordan Pharmacists Association said Thursday.

"We discussed the route of the march with our brothers in the Islamic movement and we agreed to hold a popular rally at the stadium instead," Himsi told reporters at a press conference.

He added that a delegation, representing all political groups in Jordan, would deliver a message to the American ambas-

sador protesting "the U.S. and Zionist threats against the Arab people and nation."

The government has approved the march and the rally, organisers said, but they would not approve a popular demonstration to take place in front of the American Embassy for fear of a possible outbreak of violence.

According to an organiser, who did not want to be identified, the government has not authorised any massive popular protests in front of the U.S. Embassy to avoid possible rioting and political leaders have avoided the ban "to maintain order and protect the unified position of the people and government on the Gulf."

Himsi said that the march and the "rally of national unity is to stress the solidarity of the people with Iraq and against the new crusader campaign against the Arab and Islamic people and nation."

"Arabs and Muslims will not sit idly by; the anger will reach American interests everywhere in the world in a courageous popular revolution to suppress the colonial and expansionist greed in our Arab region," Himsi said.

He criticised the Arab leaders allied with the U.S. and described as "traitors" the Arab leaders who have rejected a linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian issue saying they were enemies of the Arab people's aims and aspirations.

Although Himsi called on all peace-loving nations to exert all their efforts to try to stop the U.S. from starting a war in the region, Ibrahim Ghosheh, a

leader of the Palestinian Islamic movement, "warns, appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to me" the first hit and the target to be Israel.

In the name of the Islamic movements everywhere, we appeal to President Saddam and Iraqi leadership not to wait to be hit first and to make the first hit on Israel," said Ghosheh, whose group is to participate in the demonstration.

He said that such an attack on Israel would have positive effects and divide the U.S. alliance into two camps, "the camp of the believers and that of the non-believers."

"An attack on Israel would also break the head of the obstinate Israelis who have not budged from our land for over forty years, and it would be the appropriate response to the massive Jewish immigration to Palestine," Ghosheh said, adding that he did not think anyone present at the press conference table would disagree with such an appeal, expected to be repeated at the rally.

The others, from leftist and nationalist political activists attending, did not comment on his statement.

The Islamist leader added that the members of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamic movements everywhere were prepared to move if the U.S. hit Iraq or if war broke out in the region.

"Our Muslim brothers everywhere are prepared to fight with all their power and might for the just cause of Arabs and Muslims," he said.

Women delegation relays impressions on Gulf

AMMAN (Petra) — A seven-member international women's peace delegation which visited Iraq over the past week met Saturday with the speakers of the upper and lower houses of parliament to relay their impressions about the situation in the Gulf.

"Our group will exercise pressure on the United States administration and the Canadian government, which supports Washington, to stop the slide towards catastrophic war in

the Gulf, said a member of the group, Maude Barlow.

Barlow, who is Canadian, said the Canadian government had sent troops to the Gulf without taking parliament's permission. "The group is determined to relay Jordan's view to the world through the media," Barlow added during a meeting with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Lawzi said that Jordan was standing firm in the face of aggression and foreign hege-

mony and siding with justice and right.

He said that Jordan wanted the Palestine issue to be treated by the Security Council on an equal footing with the Gulf crisis.

Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat met with the women and heard their representatives' views. They said that their nations did not realise exactly what was happening in the Gulf as they only had the version presented to them by their governments.

The Canadian people in particular, they said, refuse to be involved in any war and they demand a peaceful solution.

The seven-member group told the Jordan Times Friday that their impression coming from Iraq, was that the Iraqis did not want war.

The group members are expected in Washington in the coming week to address the U.S. Congress and American women groups about the situation.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

Merchants, ministry assure food supplies are enough

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian merchants dealing in food supplies say that the country has sufficient stocks of food and despite the difficulty of importing supplies the merchants have succeeded in keeping the market supplied with abundant stocks.

Elia Nuqi, president of the Jordanian Supply Merchants Association told Al Ra'i Arabic daily that despite the naval blockade on Aqaba bound vessels over the past few months, and regardless of the increases in insurance tariffs and transport rates, Jordanian merchants are continuing their efforts to keep the market supplied with sufficient food of all types.

"The merchants are cooperating with the Ministry of Supply to ensure sufficient supplies and as a result the country has enough stocks for its people for a very long time," Mr. Nuqi added.

He said that basic staples like wheat, sugar, milk and rice were continually supplied by the Ministry of Supply. He noted that no price hikes were recently introduced to any food stuff although certain items prices went up in the country of origin.

Ministry of Supply officials said meanwhile that the Ministry of Supply had floated a tender for importing 150,000 tonnes of sugar and 150,000 tonnes of maize and that there would be other tenders to import additional amounts of meat and milk to keep the market well stocked.

Director of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation (CSCC) Mohammad Al Abdullah said that the basic food stuffs abundant at the CSCC warehouses which distribute commodities to the CSCC's 26 branches around the country.

"A total of 750,000 people in Jordan, all families of government employment, benefit from these centres' services," said Mr. Abdullah in a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

He said that the CSCC was selling flour to all citizens, whether government employees or otherwise. He denied that there was flour shortage and said that the problem was the poor

distribution process and not shortages.

Mr. Abdullah said that the CSCC branches around the country were opening for service from eight in the morning until five in the evening, except for Saturdays, and there was no need for hoarding food as the country has supplies sufficient for at least until the end of September.

Meanwhile, a Ministry of Supply official announced Saturday that the ministry had more than 40 warehouses around the Kingdom supplying various merchants and stores with their needs and has grain silos stocked with grain.

The official said that flour was distributed to bakeries and a number of centres which sell to the public.

The official recalled Prime Minister Mudar Badran's statement in Parliament last week in which he stressed that the country had sufficient food stocks for nine months but the ministry had made certain arrangements for the supply of flour to prevent this strategic commodity from being smuggled abroad.

Islamic delegation to Baghdad talks expresses support for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian Islamic delegation which took part in a conference for Muslim scholars in Baghdad to gather support for Iraq in the Gulf stand-off returned to Amman Saturday.

The Jordanian delegation to the conference which ended Friday included minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Jammo, Minister of Justice Majid Khalifa and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani.

Mr. Khalifa said that the conference was successful and that it had achieved its objectives. The conference, he said, was meant to express support for the Iraqi people in their stand against foreign aggression which aims at undermining the Arab existence and power.

Mr. Jammo affirmed the need to link the Palestinian cause with the Gulf crisis and said that a

solution to the Palestinian problem should be found soon to end the suffering of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

He also urged Arab forces deployed in the Gulf region to avoid confronting each other and stressed that the Gulf issue was an Arab one and should be solved between the Arabs.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein addressed the conference Friday and ruled out a withdrawal from Kuwait without settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The conference was attended by more than 325 world Islamic figures.

The Jordanian delegation to the conference was accompanied by Palestinian National Council (PNC) Speaker Abdul Hameed Al Saeb.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will meet Sunday morning under the chairmanship of the House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi. The meeting will be attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Cabinet members. The agenda is expected to refer several laws to the concerned committees of the House to discuss them.

House meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament will meet Sunday at 5 p.m. under the chairmanship of its Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Cabinet members. The agenda of the meeting includes the government's replies to queries by deputies on several issues, and discussing the House's Legal Committee decision on the Jordanian investment corporation law.

House committee meets

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman and members of the Lower House of Parliament's Health and Environmental Safety Committee Saturday visited the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. The director of the department briefed the committee on the works and activities of the department and the problems facing it.

Arab universities' meeting postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — The meetings of the Council of the Arab Universities Union and the union's scientific conference which were scheduled to be held at Qatar University in the period between Feb. 24 and 27 will be postponed due to the current situation in the Arab World, the union's Secretary General Mohammad Faraj Dughien said last week.

NOTICE

To British Citizens in Jordan

The following statement was issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 12 January 1991:

"In the light of developments in the Middle East, we have decided to revise our consular advice to British Nationals resident in Jordan and Yemen. We have already advised dependants to leave these countries. We now advise all British Nationals whose continued presence is not essential to leave until the situation becomes clearer."

British Embassy
Amman
12 January 1991

Jordan Times

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Timely reminders

JORDAN SERVED two timely notices on the international community this past week: First, it will fight with all its might any Israeli attempt to encroach on Jordanian territory in the event of war breaking out in the Gulf. Second, the decision to close its border with Iraq forthwith in the face of would-be evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait who can be expected to stampede into the country after the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Prime Minister Mudar Badran made public these positions to the Jordanian Parliament to dispel any doubts about Jordan's degree of preparedness for all eventualities should the worse come to the worst in the region. The prime minister disclosed as well that Jordan would not stand alone should Israel try to penetrate Jordan's territory or air space or territorial waters. Syria, as Mr. Badran disclosed, stands ready and able to help defend Jordan against any Israeli aggression. Other Arab countries can also be counted on for this defensive purpose, Mr. Badran added, including Iraq and Egypt. On that score, therefore, there is every reason to believe that Jordan will be defended and defended effectively. The Jordanian army is still among the most able fighting forces in the area and what it lacks in quantity it compensates for in quality, dedication and motivation. Moreover, the country has not been sitting idle since the eruption of the Gulf crisis. The People's Army's preparedness has been steadily beefed up and fortified with new recruits reaching hundreds of thousands of Jordanians of all ages and walks of life. Thus Jordan's message is loud and clear: Keep off and out of Jordan whether a war breaks out in the Gulf or not.

As for the decision to close Jordan's frontier with Iraq in the face of another tidal wave of evacuees, it is a position that is well understood and appreciated by the community of nations. Jordan's hands got burnt when it acted on behalf of the flood of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait in the months of August, September, October and December. Amman had acted in good faith and with deep conviction that the colossal humanitarian burdens the country assumed and shouldered would be appreciated not only by word but also by deed. With an economy already suffering due to several negative economic and fiscal factors, Jordanians can ill afford to a responsibility that requires a concerted international effort to shoulder. Of the more than \$56 million that the Kingdom had forked out to feed, shelter and clothe nearly one million third country nationals that entered the country after Aug. 2, only one-fifth was reimbursed. Repeated appeals to the world to come to the rescue of the country that salvaged so many evacuees went unanswered. Unless, therefore, an institutionalised international effort can be organised as of now for any eventuality, there is no way that Jordan can be expected to open its border once again in the face of massive new arrivals to the country. There are several international organisations in existence that have the infrastructure and know-how to deal with the problem of evacuees should it occur once again. All they need is funding, especially by the countries that are footing the bills of war preparedness in the region. It is utterly irresponsible to see billions of dollars being disbursed right and left on machines of war and destruction and not to allocate even a modest amount to the humanitarian consequences of the crisis. The windfall profits from skyrocketing prices of oil due to the war hysteria orchestrated by certain quarters should be taxed to create a special international fund whose purpose is to deal with the humanitarian consequences of the war situation in the Gulf area. Unless and until Jordan can be compensated for undertaking a noble and humanitarian function on behalf of mankind, there can be no justification for the country to open its borders once again to the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday accused the U.N. secretary general of joining the European Community in an attempt to place the ball squarely in the Iraqi court by making it appear that it is the party which is seeking war by throwing the ball in the Iraqi court, the Europeans and de Cuellar will not be taking the side of justice, and the present moves can be described as far away from wisdom, the paper noted. It said European Community nations foreign ministers who met with de Cuellar before his trip realise too well that a solution for the Gulf crisis is closely linked to that of the Palestine problem whose resolutions have not been implemented for more than 23 years. By issuing a statement calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait without issuing a call to Israel to withdraw its forces from the occupied Palestinian land, the Europeans are ignoring Israel's disregard to the U.N. Security Council resolutions which called for a settlement through withdrawal, and are disregarding the call for an international conference to help settle the problem, the paper noted. It said de Cuellar's visit to Iraq was preceded by James Baker's tour of the Arab countries supporting Washington as the British foreign secretary is preparing for a similar tour, obviously to win open support from Arab states for an aggression by the U.S.-led forces against Iraq. The paper urged de Cuellar to avoid the new adventure and safeguard the reputation of the United Nations organisation by taking a brave stand and to deal with the various Middle East issues on equal footing because it is the most effective means for attaining a lasting peace. The paper also appealed to the European nations to follow suit, and urged the Arab countries aligned behind the United States to re-consider their positions and help stave off the danger of war which is sought by Israel to perpetuate its hegemony on the Arab area.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Foreign airlines left when needed

EVEN before the Lloyds hiked their insurance premium rates against war risks on airplanes flying to Middle East destinations five to 20 fold, most European airlines with scheduled services to Amman had decided to close down their operations and withdraw from the Jordanian market. The obvious reason was the economic situation and the lack of tourism and business travel due to the Gulf crisis.

After insurance sharp rise last week, the remaining foreign airlines withdrew, with the exception of Air France, not only from Amman but also from most Middle East capitals, which may be affected in case of a shooting war in the Gulf and all over.

This state of affairs presented yet another evidence that Jordan, like any other country in a turbulent region, could not possibly carry on without having a national airline of its own to guarantee continued air link with the outside world for travel, freight, mail and otherwise. Foreign airlines are always willing to operate and compete at prosperous and stable times, but they are also ready to fold and leave as soon as the climate changes. They depart when they are needed most, and leave the host country to

worry about its air transport requirements.

The close down of foreign airlines may be beneficial to the national carrier, at least on the short run, but it is extremely damaging to the country. At stake are incoming tourism, job opportunities, taxes and fees, and purchases of material and services from the domestic market such as handling, landing, overflying, catering, technical services, fuel, hotels, housing and office rents, communication etc... Therefore granting and denying traffic rights to foreign carriers are not left to the national carrier to decide. They are dealt with by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The national carrier is of course expected to look after its own self-interest like any company, while the Civil Aviation Authority is expected to safeguard the national interest. Unfortunately CAA chose not to interfere or try to solve any complaints that foreign airlines may have.

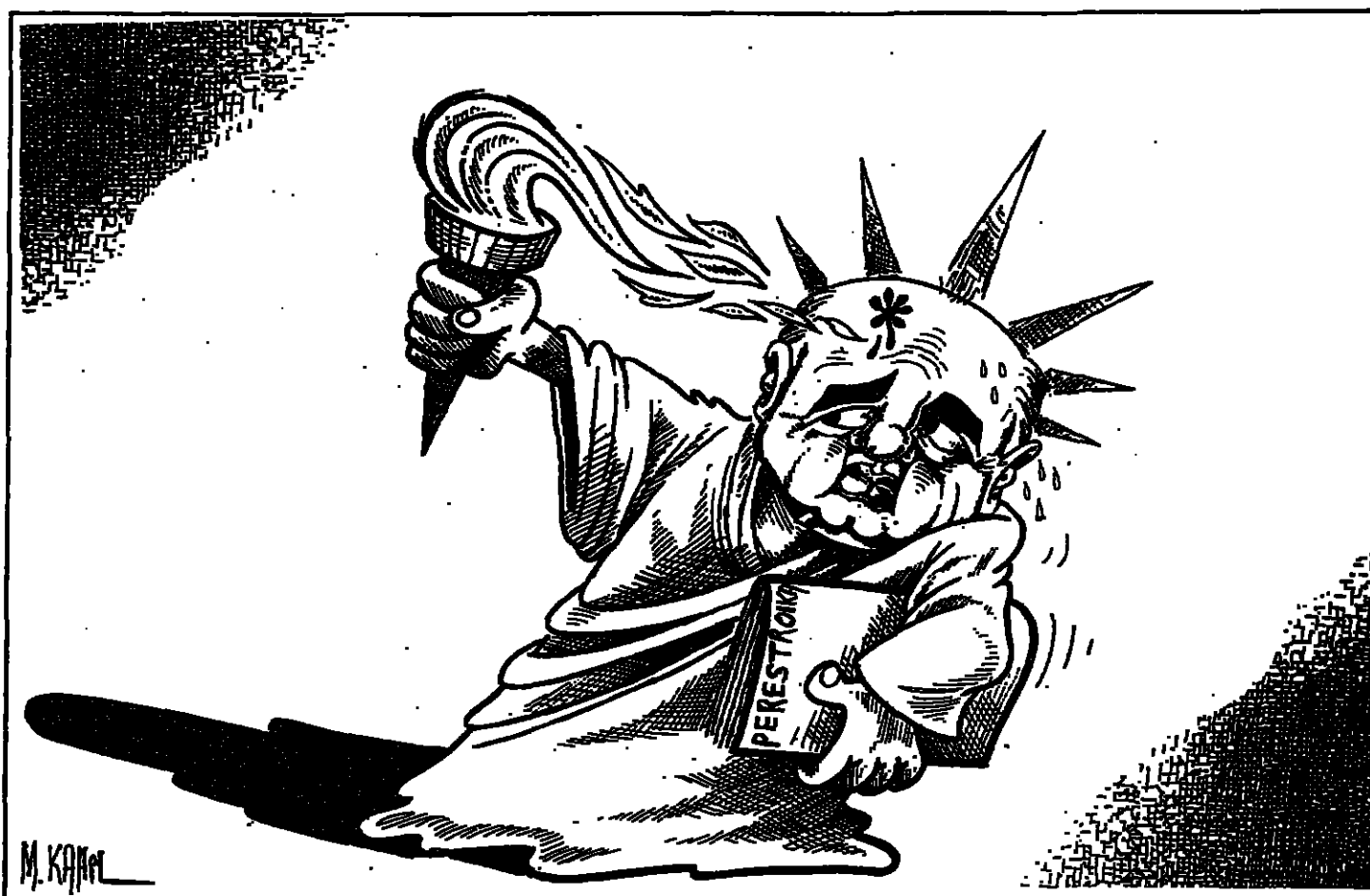
This is not the first time that Jordan is threatened by an air isolation. The country witnessed a more severe situation in 1970, and for some time thereafter, when most Arab and foreign airlines decided to withdraw from serving Amman airport due to

political and security reasons, and in response to higher insurance premiums.

At that time, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline filled the gap and maintained the air link between Amman and other key Arab and European capitals. It was not involved then in the long-haul and unfeasible routes to America and the Far East. Alia also obtained an undertaking by the government to cover the war risk, which was accepted by the creditors. Thus Alia was able to operate without having to incur the prohibitive war insurance premium, a practice which is worth experimenting with now.

In the current difficult circumstances, the national airline earns the greater role and more importance in serving the security and the economy of Jordan.

The role expected from Royal Jordanian (RJ) should demand urgent action by the management of the airline, to renew itself immediately and restructure its network, pricing policies, and even the fleet. It is imperative that RJ should be able to secure regular air services between Amman and all the key capitals, but without a major financial loss that the economy cannot tolerate.



Gorbachev fails test in democracy, turns back to comfort of repression

By Robert Evans, Reuter

MOSCOW — As paratroopers seized key buildings in rebel Lithuania and an independent news agency was shut down in Moscow on Friday, Mikhail Gorbachev's promise of a new democracy for the Soviet Union appeared fading fast.

In the Soviet parliament, deputies approved a huge military budget taking close on 37 per cent of government spending for 1991, and the president decreed compulsory food deliveries to the state in a clear rowback on his commitment to the market.

Former close Kremlin Adviser Georgy Arbatov, for years seen in the West as an apologist for old-style Soviet policies, declared that Gorbachev's perestroika was in dire danger from the military and arms industry and embittered communists.

The Soviet leader is seen widely by radical reformers as increasingly edging towards repression as a way to halt what he sees as a slide into anarchy and the threatened break-up of the country.

But foreign analysts and liberal Soviet politicians do not necessarily agree that Gorbachev is swinging back to old-style communist authoritarianism or that

the dramatic events of the past few days are part of an overall plan.

"I see no evidence that Moscow planned all this in advance," said one senior Western diplomat of the growing confrontation in Lithuania and its two sister Baltic republics between nationalist governments and the Soviet military.

A pro-reform official said he doubted that the sudden ouster of the Interfax News Agency from its quarters in a Radio Moscow building in the capital or recent closures of radical television programmes were part of any grand scenario.

"What we are seeing is the creation by circumstances of a climate in which actions that would have seemed out of the question a few months ago now become quite possible," said another diplomat.

Arbatov and Yegor Yakovlev, who edit the outspoken weekly Moscow News say what is happening is a counter-attack on reform by "revenge-seeking" elements of the old state and Communist Party apparatus.

Neither suggests that Gorbachev has joined this camp. Arbatov says the president is the object of blackmail by the hardliners and Yakovlev argues he

could be used to usher in a new dictatorship.

Even supporters agree that Gorbachev has little sense of the strong feelings of the Baltic peoples and their conviction that they were forced into the Soviet Union in 1940 and should be allowed to leave now.

In a stern warning to the stongly nationalist Lithuanian parliament on Thursday, he took a stance almost identical to that of mainly Russian organisations in the republic desperately fighting to prevent independence.

At the same time, the key official sections of the generally free-wheeling Soviet media — in particular the main evening television news programme — portrayed events in the Baltics in a strongly anti-independence light.

In scenes reminiscent of darker days in Soviet history, workers were shown at rallies condemning the "extremists" who won power from communists in the Baltics in elections last year.

Since late last year Gosteleradio, the effective ministry for radio and television, has been headed by Leonid Kravchenko, formerly chief of the official TASS News Agency.

Kravchenko, a member of the Communist Party's central committee, was accused by Interfax

of shutting off their service because their independent stance, which included heavy coverage of the Baltics, did not fit his "political conceptions."

Last week, producers of a popular television programme well-known for delving into sensitive political topics accused Kravchenko of forcing them off the air for political reasons.

The 53-year-old Gosteleradio chief is one of a number of new officials who have moved into key posts in recent weeks and left liberals who once had Gorbachev's ear out in the cold.

Among such figures who have all but disappeared from the Kremlin scene are Alexander Yakovlev, former party Politburo member long regarded as the man who convinced Gorbachev to free the media, and outgoing Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

On Saturday, Gorbachev is expected to present a new cabinet list to his federation council, a recently-created body which he clearly intends to use as his main organ of executive power.

"We will be watching this very closely," said a foreign envoy. "It will give us some very strong evidence on the way he is moving, and whether perestroika as we knew it is really coming to an end."

Cold war is not over yet

By Carol Giacomo, Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has begun to examine sanctions and other steps it might take against the Soviet Union if a Kremlin crackdown on restive republics turns violent, according to U.S. officials.

While they say no decision has yet been taken, the fact that a review is under way underscores a rising tension in the superpower relationship and suggests just how much of a diplomatic rupture renewed Soviet repression could cause.

Administration officials "are now surveying ongoing programmes, cooperation, talks, negotiations, mutual exchanges and seeing what might or might not be appropriate (to suspend or cancel), depending on how bad things get," one U.S. official told Reuters.

The matter of "next steps" was discussed on Friday morning at the White House by a crisis management committee headed by Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates.

With the situation in the Soviet Union deteriorating quickly this week and the chance of bloodshed increasingly likely, "some U.S. response is expected," one official said.

He said it was unlikely a U.S. proposal to give the Soviet Union associate membership in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, at a meeting of rich industrial nations next week, would be affected.

Western economists consider the move a key element in the Soviet Union's painful transition to a market economy from the discarded socialist model.

But in other ways, which he did not specify, the official said a hardening of Soviet domestic policy could put a brake on U.S., and possibly even Western, help with the beleaguered Soviet economy.

The White House has already raised the prospect of delaying a summit in Moscow on Feb. 11-13, although spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said on Friday that plans for the summits were continuing.

In addition to ethnic and nationalist tensions, disputes over two arms control treaties

have also brought U.S.-Soviet relations to what one official called a crossroads.

The struggle between Moscow's central government and independence-minded republics has long loomed as a potential stumbling block in what have been dramatically improving superpower ties.

It became a concrete problem when Moscow on Monday ordered paratroopers to Lithuania and other republics to enforce the draft. The White House, in a strongly worded statement, said the troop deployments were counterproductive and provocative.

By Friday it bordered on crisis, when Soviet troops stormed state defence headquarters in Vilnius, after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev warned Lithuania to submit to Kremlin authority or face dire consequences.

The Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are special cases among the Soviet Union's 15 republics for the United States, which does not recognise their forcible incorporation in 1940.

In a telephone conversation, U.S. President George Bush on Friday appealed to Gorbachev to resolve a dispute with Lithuania peacefully. But the White House refused to call the actions of Soviet troops in the Baltic republic the start of a military crackdown.

One U.S. Official said that since September, Gorbachev, turning increasingly to the military and KGB for support, had made maintenance of the union his main priority and relegated political and economic reform to second place or lower.

While Gorbachev is believed to still want reform, "I think he... panicked over the unravelling of the society, the disintegration of the economy and ran out of ideas," he said.

Although the trend is ominous, this official said he believed Gorbachev was "playing things one day at a time" and trying to get control over the republics through intimidation "so he doesn't have to actually spill blood."

The administration has denied it was soft-peddling the crisis to avoid friction with Gorbachev, a pivotal supporter in U.S. efforts to force Iraq out of Kuwait by Tuesday's U.N. deadline.

A Gulf war even if it's unneeded?

By Paul H. Nitze and Michael F. Stafford

WASHINGTON — The United States is rushing headlong into all-out war in the Gulf. There is an alternative to this painful course. Continued reliance on the United Nations embargo — possibly augmented by air strikes — promises a much more favourable result.

If this week's last-minute round of diplomacy fails and the United States applies its new military doctrine of overwhelming force, the carnage will be severe — probably thousands of American casualties, as well as widespread death and destruction in Kuwait and Iraq. A massive clash with Saddam Hussein's well entrenched forces on the ground as well as in the air will have severe long-term impact on U.S. public opinion.

U.S. standing in the Middle East and other key American interests.

One of the most dangerous forms of human error is forget-

ting what one is trying to achieve. In the Gulf crisis, it is crucial that Americans look beyond anger at Saddam Hussein and remind themselves of precisely what U.S. interests are in the crisis and what America seeks to accomplish. Underlying its support for the United Nations resolutions calling for Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait and allow the restoration of the Kuwaiti government are several important objectives.

The main goal should be to set a precedent for a new post-cold war era, in which the community of nations, working through the United Nations and other organisations, can ensure that would-be aggressors do not profit from invasion, coercion and force.

Subordinate goals would be: To avoid major disruptions in the regional balance of power in the Middle East, and at the same time to avoid encouraging internal foes of

friendly regimes.

To maintain stability in the world oil market, which has adjusted to the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil (8 per cent of pre-crisis, world supply, by ensuring that Saddam Hussein cannot follow up his aggression against Kuwait so as to eventually gain leverage over Saudi oil (9 per cent of world supplies) or of the entire Middle East's (30 per cent).

To deny Saddam Hussein the ability to field weapons of mass destruction, including an atomic bomb, and to prevent the spread of such weapons elsewhere in the region.

To achieve these goals, the United States and its international partners have available a choice among two general courses of action.

The first is all-out war, including heavy reliance on the prompt offensive use of ground forces. The U.S. Gulf commander, General Norman Schwarzkopf, has said it could take up to six months to win

such a conflict. If the troops get bogged down, it could take longer. In addition to troop losses, such a campaign would cost between \$50 billion and \$60 billion, plus that much or more in indirect expenditures such as future medical and other care for the casualties. Efforts to eliminate Saddam Hussein or occupy Iraq could take longer and cost more.

The second possible course is continued sanctions, possibly augmented by air strikes. This course would balance power with restraint; it would measure out sufficient force to make unmistakable to Iraq and the rest of the world the adverse consequences of aggression.

Washington would continue the international embargo, including enforcement by the naval blockade. To defend Saudi Arabia, it would retain and rotate a sustainable deployment of ground forces, at a level lower than the present

one.

Under the current international embargo, only a trickle of goods is getting in or out of Iraq. Oil exports and earnings are nil, and civilian production is estimated to be down by about 40 per cent. In time, lack of spare parts will erode Iraq's military capabilities, and civilian and military production will fall further.

But over the next six to 12 months it may become evident that a blockade by itself will not do the job. In that case, we would favour supplementing the naval blockade with selected but powerful air strikes.

Before this step was taken, however, it would be important that the allies and the American people be convinced that sanctions alone had been given a full chance to work and had failed. It would also be important that the public be better convinced that the interests at stake justified use of

military force.

While the shortcomings of strategic air campaigns are well known, modern air delivery systems can inflict great damage on the Iraqi war machine and the economy. Combined with the naval blockade, a well directed air assault could force Iraqi capitulation. And if, over months, it did not achieve its goal, there remains the possibility of a later ground attack against greatly weakened Iraqi forces.

In our view, all-out war promises the least success in achieving the objectives we have outlined.

Mr. Nitze served in the Reagan administration as special adviser on arms control. Mr. Stafford is executive director of the Centre for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. They contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

King

(Continued from page 1)

"Dialogue has been absent for five months. So one would hope that at least the beginning was last week and we hope that the secretary general will be able to continue from there on," the King said. "Saddam Hussein is a proud man and he also cares for the feelings of his people. I think that he will hope that somehow the meeting will be marked with flexibility and enable all to find some avenues to get out of the situation which has developed all over the five months."

In reply to a question about President Bush's attitude towards Jordan, the King said: "On a personal level our relations are normal but officially we have not been in touch for quite a while, and I think on the issue itself the attitude that I perceive was one of, in my conviction, maybe at this time an approach, a show of force cannot produce results. I warned against (it) since the very beginning, and I made it quite clear that in my view that intimidations and threats would produce exactly the opposite results."

"On the other hand, I feel very strongly that there are opportunities lost and I think an opportunity now and has existed in the first 48 hours of the crisis when we secured an Iraqi commitment for withdrawal and we secured also a readiness to attend a summit and to meet our brethren in Saudi Arabia to try to work the problem out and to resolve the causes of the eruptions in the first place. But things did not work in that way, and there was an escalation. Forces arrived and the withdrawal did not occur and we were sliding towards violence until now."

"Somehow one hopes that common sense will prevail and the interests of people will prevail, otherwise we are headed for disaster of that magnitude that I would not like to describe or imagine."

In reply to another question, the King said: "I cannot live with the idea many in this world are so naive about the possibility that thousands of people are going to die. We can see the forces are against each other, a million plus people, but more than that there are innocent people to suffer. I think that if aerial bombardments are going to be used, the impact, is going to be felt and to activate a chain of reactions affecting the entire Arab and Muslim world. In addition to that the damage will not be limited in a period of time."

"It will be difficult to predict in terms of the future. It will be an economic disaster as far as the world is concerned, an ecological disaster of the first order and an eruption might affect the entire region."

In response to a suggestion that the King call President Bush and talk about averting war in the Gulf, the King said: "I have heard him saying how much it meant to him to return every American soldier safely to the United States to his family. I am sure that this applies to all others. On the other hand, during my last visit to Baghdad, I heard from the Iraqi president that on the human level he is as concerned as for those kids standing opposite the Iraqi forces as for his own."

In reply to a question about strained relations with the Un-

ited States, he said: "That is not our wish nor desire but maybe that is a reality, yes."

"But on the other hand we are in touch I hope, and I know that we have many friends in the United States. I hope that all the U.S. will realise that we are trying to help them as well as ourselves and everybody concerned at that and avoid a disaster."

Evacuees

(Continued from page 1)

The Jordanian requirement as outlined Saturday shifts the main focus onto the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which is directly handling the process of arranging flights home for evacuees, as well as to the various countries with tens of thousands of their nationals still living in Iraq and Kuwait who might decide to leave in the event of a war in the region.

While most countries are willing to provide the guarantees sought by the Jordanian government, the final phase of evacuation — the actual homeward flights of evacuees — mostly depends on IOM, which is directly in charge of arranging flights with funds contributed by the international community.

IOM, has already flown home around 140,000 evacuees through Jordan since the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, has enough pledges of financial assistance from donor countries to foot the bill for 10,000 to 15,000 more evacuees, according to an IOM official.

"But we have not received the actual funds yet," said Rafael Roubillard of the IOM mission in Amman. "We are awaiting instructions from our headquarters in Geneva on the emergency Gulf evacuation plans," he told the Jordan Times.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, head of the IOM mission here, told Saturday's meeting that his organisation could ensure the departure home of evacuees in less than 48 hours if their number was limited to groups of less than 200, officials said.

"This is possible under the present circumstances, barring the outbreak of military hostilities," according to another diplomatic source. "But the situation would be totally out of control when the first shot is fired in the Gulf," he said.

In Geneva, the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO), has issued an urgent appeal for \$38 million to help the evacuation process. The amount appealed for represents the first phase of a \$175 million operation which would cover Iraq, Syria and Turkey in addition to Jordan.

Representatives of Iran, Syria and Turkey told a meeting in Geneva on Friday that their governments were ready to open their borders for evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait provided they were extended international financial support, according to details of the meeting available to the Jordan Times.

In principle, the three countries said, the borders were open. But it was evident that they were holding out for funds before they actually start receiving evacuees into their territory, according to sources close to the deliberations.

Mohammad Essafi, head of the UNDRO, told the meeting that as much as 1.5 million people could flee the war theatre to neighbouring countries if war erupted in the Gulf. "We must prepare for the worst hypothesis in order to mitigate the consequences of a dreadful conflagration

if reason does not prevail," Essafi told the meeting.

Turkey allowed in over 70,000 refugees from Iraq and Kuwait into its territory during September and October; Syria allowed in a few dozen.

Iran, which was involved in a massive exchange of prisoners across the border with Iraq in addition to around 50,000 of its own nationals returning from Kuwait during this period, permitted less than 1,000 Asians to be evacuated through its territory from Iraq but several thousands of others passed through Iran from Turkey.

Jordan's problems in handling the flow of evacuees were further compounded with Saudi Arabia's refusal to allow IOM chartered Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft to fly through its territory. For the moment, the IOM has signed on the Soviet carrier Aeroflot to fly home around 1,500 Vietnamese evacuees but the organisation will find it very difficult to charter aircraft after Jan. 15 the deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face war.

"No airline will be willing to fly to send charter flights to Jordan when the insurance costs have hit the ceiling," said an industry source. "So even if RJ planes are available they will not be useful for charter flights for evacuees in view of the Saudi refusal to allow the Jordanian national carrier to fly charter flights through Saudi airspace," he explained.

In the meantime, the Jordanian border post Al Ruweished remained open for Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese evacuees and other diplomats leaving Iraq and Kuwait. No definite number was available yet of others stranded between the Iraqi and Jordanian frontier posts following the closure of the Jordanian side Wednesday.

Yemen

(Continued from page 1)

has drawn criticism from Mubarak and Egyptian newspapers.

Yemen abstained in the voting on an Arab summit resolution Aug. 10 condemning the Iraqi invasion. The resolution, adopted by a majority of Arab League members led by Egypt, demanded Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and approved a Saudi Arabian request for military help from Arab and other friendly countries.

"Yemen always has demanded the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait," Iryani said.

"The Yemeni stand has always been that a peaceful solution is the only way to end the Gulf crisis."

Asked if Yemen supported linking Iraq's invasion with finding a solution to the Palestinian problem as Iraq has demanded, Iryani said:

"The Palestinian issue is the Arab's first issue and we see that this problem must be handled with the same importance and enthusiasm with which the international community is dealing with the Kuwaiti issue."

"We are with any method accepted by the international community. What is important is the commitment that this issue will be solved," he said.

Yemen requested a Security Council meeting Wednesday to rebuke Israel for its expulsions of four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip.

In Sanaa tens of thousands of people demonstrated Saturday against war in the Middle East.

'The mother of battles' could be unleashed worldwide

By Nicholas Moore
Reuters

LONDON — A Gulf war could unleash a world-wide wave of guerrilla attacks on pro-American Arab leaders and Western bases, embassies and airlines, security experts say.

Vowing to fight "the mother of battles" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has said his theatre of operations would extend to wherever Arabs live.

A war, Western intelligence sources say, might therefore trigger coordinated attacks by Iraqi and Iraqi-sponsored agents.

Some analysts also think that new waves of terror by Islamic zealots, possibly beyond control by Baghdad or any other capital, might radiate from the Gulf long after any overt hostilities had ceased.

Denis Healey, a former British defence minister, says a U.S.-led attack on Iraq might "turn the whole of the Muslim world against us."

Western intelligence sources and insurgency experts say that in initial retaliatory strikes Iraq

may be tempted to activate its own agents, already in place as "sleepers" perhaps helped by cells of two experienced Iraqi-backed Palestinian groups.

One is Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council. The other is the Palestine Liberation Front led by Abu Abbas who organised the 1985 Mediterranean hijack of the cruise ship Achille Lauro.

Targets in likely priority would be allied military resources in the Arabian Peninsula, pro-American Arab officials and then U.S. embassies, airlines and other establishments in the Middle East and in Europe.

Attacks on the British and other Europeans are rated possible — some experts say the Europeans are often poorly protected and offer easy, relatively risk-free "hits."

Rotterdam, the port with the world's largest oil refining complex has stepped up security. Vigilance was heightened on British North Sea oil platforms

where marine commandos regularly practice abseiling counter-guerrilla operations.

Attacks in the United States itself are regarded as possible but less likely, although officials take the danger seriously.

"You can't defend everything," one said. A private expert, Yonah Alexander of the Institute for Studies in International Terrorism, said U.S. oil pipelines and electric power plants would be targets.

U.S. embassies are briefing Americans abroad on basic precautions like varying their daily routine and watching to see if they are followed. Bases in Germany are on alert.

Americans have been advised to consider leaving certain countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Iraqi agents could already be in place in Europe, according to the authoritative Jane's Defence Weekly.

Estimates of numbers are difficult to obtain but other sources said up to 50 agents were infil-

trated to Western Europe through Yugoslavia recently.

Paul Wilkinson is professor of international relations at Scotland's St Andrews University and director of the research institute for the study of conflict and terrorism.

He said Iraq would probably make any main guerrilla thrust in the Middle East "to complement its military operations." It would also perhaps want to try to assassinate pro-Western Arab politicians and destabilise their governments.

Former U.S. assistant secretary of state Richard Murphy agrees that Iraq might both use guerrilla tactics against U.S. targets in the Middle East and strike at Arab ruling families.

"We just have to take it for granted that this will become an instrument of state policy," he told reporters.

High profile Western targets might otherwise be chosen for their symbolic importance. "Terrorists are not particular-

ly innovative and they have been trained to attack airports and aircraft," Wilkinson said.

Stephen Merrett, chairman of Lloyd's underwriters association, has said insurers are asking airlines about their precautions and, if not satisfied, might refuse cover.

He said action was possible in widely-separated parts of the world and "airlines can and should refuse to operate from airports where security is unsatisfactory."

Diplomats are at risk and difficult to protect.

Terror experts say bombings and gun or grenade attacks are the likeliest guerrilla action. It is probable that the Iraqi high command would want to reserve chemical and any biological warfare capacity for military use.

Britain's Wilkinson is among experts who fear, like Denis Healey, that a wave of terrorism might long outlast a Gulf war, whatever its outcome, and involve maverick groups.

Congress

(Continued from page 1)

tion calling on continued reliance on international economic sanctions and diplomacy to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

In that vote, 10 Democrats supported the president by opposing the resolution, and one Republican — Charles Grassley of Iowa — voted for it.

The 250-183 House vote was even more lopsided.

The gravity of the moment hung heavily around the Capitol, where the usual smiles, jokes and handshakes were subdued.

"In my 26 years in Congress, I have never seen this House more serious or more determined to speak its heart and mind," said Foley.

And Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the Senate's senior Democrat, said his vote was "the most important... in my career."

Even after it was clear that Bush had majorities in both houses willing to support the immediate use of force, dissent was impassioned.

"The president says he's angry, he's impatient," said Sen. Joseph Biden, a Democrat, his voice rising. "Well, God bless him, so are all of us. But is that a reason? What vital interests of the United States justify sending young Americans to their deaths in the sands of Saudi Arabia?"

Byrd argued that "diplomacy is not dead. It is still alive, and let's not cut off the life-support mechanism just yet." He concluded his speech by quoting from the Bible: "Let us run with patience the race that is before us."

The U.S. State Department ordered Iraq's ambassador Saturday to send home 12 Iraqi diplomats in a move it said was to prevent the embassy from masterminding terrorist attacks.

Our primary objective is to reduce Iraq's capability to orchestrate terrorism in the event of Gulf hostilities," the department said in a prepared statement.

"The government of Iraq has repeatedly threatened to initiate

terrorist attacks against the interests of the nations participating in Operation Desert Shield," spokesman Anita Stockman said.

The message was delivered to Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al Mashat in a diplomatic note at a State Department meeting Saturday with Jock Covey, acting assistant secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Only Mashat and three other diplomats may remain in Washington, the department said, and they must stay within a 40-kilometre radius of the embassy or get State Department permission to go beyond this limit.

The official stressed that this does not signal a break in U.S.-Iraq diplomatic relations.

"We have permitted a small staff to remain in the United States to allow the embassy to function as a channel of communication," the official said. "We are not breaking diplomatic relations."

Those Iraqi personnel who are departing must leave the country by midnight New York time on Tuesday (0500 GMT on Wednesday) — the same moment when the United Nations resolutions authorising force against Iraq goes into effect.

The note was handed to Mashat hours after the last remaining U.S. diplomats lowered the flag at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad and left the country. Charge d'Affaires Joseph Wilson left the Iraqi capital with five other embassy staffers aboard a chartered flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

In Damascus, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said he hoped U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would find a peaceful settlement during talks with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad.

"We support a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to this crisis," Baker said, but added:

"The U.N. deadline is a serious deadline and I hope the Iraqi government recognises that and agrees to comply with 12 solemn U.N. resolutions."

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Israel to Security Council resolutions concerning the particular case of deportation.

As you are aware, Israel had deported over 3,000 Palestinians since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967. The most recent were four Palestinians who were deported from the Gaza Strip last week. The vast majority of deportees have been grassroots community leaders — Muslim and Christian clerics, mayors, lawyers, doctors, educators, etc. This indicates that Israel's deportation policy aims to eliminate the indigenous leadership of the West Bank and Gaza.

Deportation is an inhuman and odious ordeal, involving forced separation of individuals from their families and communities, and permanent exile from their homeland. It is an illegal act and in violation of article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention — which Israel has signed — and which explicitly prohibits deportations in any form and for any reason.

We are encouraged that the Security Council took more than one resolution concerning deportation. The latest one (608) was taken on January 14, 1988, and specifically called on Israel to rescind the order to deport Palestinian civilians and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied Palestinian territories of those already deported. Unfortunately this resolution was not implemented and is being continuously violated.

The above is not the first Security Council resolution concerning the Palestinian problem that has not been implemented. At a time when the world community is pressing for implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis, we are perturbed that an alliance of governments — headed by the U.S.A. — is ignoring the resolutions that they took themselves concerning the Palestinian issue. We thus appeal to you that the Palestinian problem be addressed on

the same footing (with the Gulf crisis) so that there will be no double standards in dealing with U.N. resolutions.

U.N. chief

(Continued from page 1)

secretary general, according to Petra.

Masri said in his statement at the airport that "Jordan wishes the secretary general good luck in his talks in Baghdad."

Masri, who sounded optimistic said Perez de Cuellar is the right person to say the right things, and "we are under the impression that the Iraqis will display a good response to Perez de Cuellar's mission but things will be clearer in Baghdad," added Masri.

The minister noted that Perez de Cuellar had earlier announced he was not carrying a peace plan but will hear more than he will talk and will discuss with the Iraqi president certain ideas.

Syria

(Continued from page 1)

they have been longing."

"Israel alone stands to benefit from this situation which allows it to continue to occupy our lands and plot to expand," Assad said.

"A withdrawal from Kuwait will be a prelude for a new atmosphere where dangers are eliminated and we stand together in the defence of our destiny, fate and territory," Assad said.

"Our concern over Iraq... equals our concern about ourselves," Assad said.

Assad's message to Saddam was the second in eight months between the two leaders, who have been at odds for more than 15 years.

"I decided to address this message to you despite the existence of years of differences and uncordial relations between us... I hope these would be turned into what is good for our two countries and our nation."

"What we are facing now requires us to be frank with each

other and to exchange views because any harm inflicted on Iraq is in the end a harm which affects Syria and the Arab Nation in one way or another."

He said he did not want to discuss whether the invasion of Kuwait was right or wrong "because this is another matter not suitable for discussion now. What is important is the danger we are facing now."

Assad said Israel was gaining from the current situation and that the "Arabs were the losers."

"The real interest for Arabs at this moment is through unity and real solidarity and that each Arab country provide the other with confidence despite the differences on one or several Arab issues," he said.

Soviets

(Continued from page 1)

Security Council resolutions demanding that Baghdad withdraw its troops.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has said that Soviet troops will not be sent to the Gulf. In his resignation Dec. 20, Shevardnadze bristled at legislative suggestions that he had plans for such a deployment.

Foreign Ministry officials said that as of Friday, there were 290 Soviet workers still in Iraq, which has been a longtime Kremlin ally.

Saturday's resolution was introduced by Deputy Alexander Dzasokhov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet International Affairs Committee. Dzasokhov has been rumoured as a possible replacement for Shevardnadze, who has remained on the job until a new candidate could be nominated by Gorbachev.

In a debate on the resolution, deputies expressed concern that if a war breaks out, its effects could be felt on the Soviet Union's southern borders.

One deputy said the effects could be similar to the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion. He did not elaborate but appeared to be referring to the effects of radioactive fallout if nuclear weapons are used in a war.

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American takes swimming record and title from Germany's Gross

PERTH, Australia (R) — American Melvin Stewart denied Michael Gross a unique treble and snatched the German's world record when he won the 200 metres butterfly at the World Swimming Championships Saturday.

Gross, world champion over 200 butterfly and 200 freestyle in 1982 and 1986, led a set to make it an unprecedented three in a row until the American intervened with a storming final length.

Goodwill Games champion Stewart closed on the Olympic gold medalist at the last turn and surged away down the final 50 metres to win in one minute 55.69 seconds.

Gross, who set the previous world record of 1:56.24 in Hannover in June 1986, touched in 1:56.78 — his second butterfly silver in Perth after Tuesday's 100 metres.

Hungary's Tamas Darnyi, European champion in Gross's absence in 1989, claimed the bronze in 1:58.25 to add to the gold he won in his world record 400 individual medley Tuesday.

Gross, who returned to competitive swimming for this final meeting, went out fast and led Stewart by 0.74 of a second at the 100-metre mark.

But Stewart would not be denied and ended the reign of the lanky German, who nonetheless raised his record collection of World Championship medals to 12.

China's Lin Li became the

first swimmer to complete an individual pool double by outpacing American Summer Sanders in the women's 200 metres individual medley.

Lin, who won China's first world swimming title in Monday's 400 metres individual medley, caught the American on the breaststroke leg, third of the four individual medley strokes.

Sanders, bronze medalist in the 400, battled to get back on terms but could not match Lin's freestyle finish.

Lin took gold in 2:13.40, with Sanders second in 2:14.06, having led the field in the opening butterfly and backstroke.

Olympic Champion Daniela Hunger, a German from the east, swam a strong final freestyle leg to move up from fifth to the bronze medal in 2:16.16.

Lin's double match the pair of golds won by compatriot Gao Min in the diving pool.

Tom Jager retained his 50 metres freestyle title, avenging his defeat at the 1988 Olympics by fellow American Matt Biondi.

Biondi, third behind the victorious Jager at the 1986 World Championships, was just ahead for the first half of the one-length dash but the world record-holder hit back to win by 0.10 of a second.

Jager clocked 22.16 to reclaim the World Championship record from Biondi, who had taken it in the heats when he sliced 0.07 from Jager's winning 1986 mark of 22.49.

Olympic bronze medalist Gennadi Prigoda of the Soviet Union added another bronze to his medal collection in 22.62.

It was the second individual medal for Biondi, who retained his 100 freestyle title Wednesday.

Olympic champion Janet Evans romped away with the women's 800 metres freestyle title for her second individual gold medal of the championships.

The American, victor over 400 freestyle Wednesday, swam a long race out front in a final which was a contest only for silver and bronze between the two German finalists.

Evans touched in 8:24.05, just inside the 1978 World Championship record 8:24.94 set by Australian Tracey Wickham in Berlin.

Grit Mueller took the silver in 8:30.20, just ahead of ex-East German team mate Jana Henke, who gathered the bronze in 8:30.31.

Jeff Rouse kept the Americans on their winning roll, just edging out Canada's Mark Tewksbury in an exciting duel in the 100 backstroke.

Rouse, the fastest qualifier, hit the turn well in front but Commonwealth Games champion Tewksbury caught him on the second length and missed gold by a fingertip.

Rouse won in a championship record 55.239, with Tewksbury second in 55.29 and Martin Lopez-Zubero, Spain's new 200

backstroke world champion, third in 55.61.

The U.S. overcame Australia in a great battle in the women's 4x100 metres medley relay to make it five titles out of the six at stake in the pool on the penultimate evening of the championships.

Janie Wagstaff gave the Americans the lead in the backstroke but Linley Frame put Australia just in front on the breaststroke and Susan O'Neill extended the advantage in the butterfly to hand over almost a second up.

The U.S. struck back in the freestyle leg as Nicole Haislett, newly crowned 100 freestyle champion, overawed Australia's Karen Van Wirdum on the last length to storm through for a third gold.

The U.S. won in 4:06.51, with Australia second in 4:08.4 and Germany third in 4:10.50.

Meanwhile Vladimir Salnikov, whose 1,500 metres world record is the oldest in men's swimming, says he is surprised his mark has not been officially beaten.

"I didn't think the record I broke in 1983 would last so long," the 30-year-old Soviet triple Olympic gold medalist said Saturday in Perth.

Salnikov said he thought he would have broken the record again but he was restricted by injury and the Soviet boycott of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Johnson beaten in 1st race since Seoul

HAMILTON, Ontario (Agencies) — Ben Johnson mistimed his finish and was beaten by a former narcotics officer in his first race since his suspension for drug use at the Seoul Olympics 28 months ago.

American Baron Council headed Johnson to win the 50 metres in 5.75 seconds at Friday's indoor meeting.

The 29-year-old Canadian was second in 5.77, just ahead of American Mike Marshin 5.79, and said afterwards that a mistake at the finish line had given the race to Council.

"I dipped at the wrong line," said Johnson.

Council said the sprinters had been warned by a race official that there were two lines at the end of the infield and were reminded that the second of the two was the finish.

Loren Seagrave, Johnson's coach of six months, said he did not notice the problem until it was too late.

"I told Ben to make his move at the first line, but it was the wrong finish line," Seagrave said. "I failed to notice, and I'm partly to blame."

Johnson, stripped of his 1988 metres gold medal, had held the 50 metres world best of 5.55. It was erased from the books with his 60 metres world best and 100 metres world record in 1989 after he admitted he used banned anabolic steroids between 1981 and 1988.

Noted in his pre-Seoul days for his split-second reaction to the gun, Johnson seemed to stand almost upright at the start but picked up speed over the last 15 metres.

There were two false starts — one by Council and one by fourth-placed Andre Cason — and the field was ordered to stand up on the first attempt to launch the race.

Johnson was greeted with thunderous applause from the capacity crowd of 17,000 when he took his starting blocks to the infield two hours before the race.

When the field was introduced, Johnson drew a standing ovation. He wore two black patches spinned to his jersey in

memory of his father, who died a year ago.

"I dedicated this race to my father," said Johnson. "But I failed. I'll try to do it next time."

"I'm in good shape, but I'm not in the best racing shape. I think I'll improve as the season goes on," he said.

Council said the pro-Johnson crowd helped motivate him.

"Hearing them yell 'Ben, Ben, Ben' got me fired up," said Council, the deputy sheriff of Gainesville, Florida.

"I ran against Ben in 1988 and 1989, but it was always a matter of who was going to finish second."

Council said he had no qualms about running against a former steroid user. "As a law enforcement officer, my area of expertise was mostly cocaine and marijuana not steroids, but I know people mess up and they deserve a second chance."

Johnson, who says he no longer uses banned substances, was tested at random six times in the past 26 months.

Spectators waved a variety of signs, including one which read: "Ben knows track and field. Just do it."

Another banner, referring to news that Johnson's nemesis Carl Lewis had been charged earlier Friday with drunk driving, read: "Free Carl Lewis."

Lewis was released from custody Friday after being arrested earlier on drunken driving charges.

Lewis was whisked from the Houston Police Station by his lawyer.

"The attorney doesn't want to talk to the media and neither does Mr. Lewis," said Sgt. Ralph Gonzales, a police spokesman. "He is very distraught about all of this."

Lewis was charged with driving while intoxicated, a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to six months in jail. Lewis posted an \$800 bond for his release.

The sprint champion was pulled over about 2 a.m. Friday morning by officers on the west side of the city. Lewis, 29, was the driver of a car carrying two other men and a woman, officers said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 13, 1991
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Go directly to those with whom you want to have a long-time association and make sure that they understand how you feel on all points so that they can feel safe with uniting with you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the day and evening for you to be just as personal as you like in deciding how to get what you want in the days ahead and with less trouble.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You now have quite a chance to show others that you are the one who can quietly study ways to advance more quietly and quickly towards new aims.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your desire for some better method under which to live can be greatly helped if you will ask your friends and acquaintances what they feel is best.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take sometime out to go directly to the source of your civic influence and do the things that put you in more solidly with those on top.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the moment for you to make sure you are openminded to the loftiest suggestions that can come to you from lofty and intelligent sources.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is your time to make a point to show your debtors and creditors that you are on the beam in making arrangements to pay or collect them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You now find that you have to make sure you understand exactly what your partners expect of you so discuss principles which to live in the future.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can plan the future wisely now if you get out of the stale old rut that has meant so much to you and modernize your efforts towards success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A day and evening to be alive and alert to the ways you can enjoy yourself and bring some much needed recreation to close companions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Take some time out to get a fresh understanding what your own clan expects of you and get them some new type of present that can fascinate them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a pretty good chance to resolve any doubts in your mind at the services, studies of your choice now so be on the ball to do so with intelligence.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your need for more of this world's goods requires that you have a greater feeling of abundance in your consciousness than you have had before.

Sanchez slays Garrison in New South Wales Open

SYDNEY (R) — Spain's Arantza Sanchez Vicario powered her way into the women's New South Wales Open tennis final Saturday when she easily defeated American Zina Garrison in their semi-final encounter 6-2, 7-5.

Number two seed Sanchez stalked the net from the opening game in an aggressive display of power tennis to which her older opponent had no answers.

"I think I pressured her all the time," said Sanchez after the match. "I moved around very well and when I had a chance I came into the net. The key word was I pressured her a lot."

The 19-year-old from Barcelona broke Garrison's serve in the first game and again in the third and fourth to quickly lead 4-1.

While Sanchez seemed to have no problem with any aspect of her game, from penetrating baseline shots to picking up drop shots at her shoelaces, Garrison, 27, had difficulty with her first serve and judging line and distance.

Garrison's frustration was obvious as she chastised herself after hitting an unforced error to lose the first set 6-2.

In the opening game of the second set Sanchez attacked the net, again pressuring Garrison, who struggled to hold serve. Sanchez eventually broke through in the 11th game to

make it 2-1.

Halfway through the second set Garrison displayed a glimpse of her true form when she momentarily put Sanchez on the defensive with a string of accurate shots, but it didn't last.

Sanchez had the match in sight at 5-4, but dropped serve with a couple of rare unforced errors allowing Garrison to level at 5-5.

But the Spaniard swiftly broke in the next game and went on to take the set and match 7-5.

Sanchez said she liked the rebounded ace surface at White City and was very pleased in making her first Australian tennis final. The Australian Open, which starts next week in Melbourne, will also be played on rebound ace.

"I was practising in December very hard because I knew this would be my first tournament of the year and I am very happy to be in the finals," she said.

In the other women's semi-final Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna had to battle for every point to defeat last year's finalist Austrian Barbara Paulus 7-5, 7-6 (7-2).

Novotna, the event's sixth seed, was forced to serve for the first set twice after dropping service in the ninth game.

The second set saw both players break each other's serve early as they traded sizzling baseline shots and crisp net volleys.

Ivanisevic beats Edberg

ADELAIDE (R) — Yugoslav teenager Goran Ivanisevic fought back from 6-0 down to beat world number one Stefan Edberg and win the Rio International Tennis Challenge Saturday.

The powerful Ivanisevic managed only seven points in the first five games of the match, but found his form and unsettled his opponent in the second, eventually winning 6-3, 6-4.

Ivanisevic said he had felt dizzy and weak in the first set after eating very little all day, but had a chocolate bar in the break and felt his strength return. He won the first three games of the second set, before Edberg got back in the match.

The final set went with serve until the seventh game when Ivanisevic, buoyed by strong support in the crowd, snatched a break to go 4-3 up.

Edberg said the match was the best he had played all week and also gave him valuable experience on the rebound ace surface before the Australian Open next week.

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Edberg said the match was the best he had played all week and also gave him valuable experience on the rebound ace surface before the Australian Open next week.

Sampras pulls out of Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras has pulled out of the Australian Open Tennis Championships starting Monday because of a nagging leg injury.

Sampras, seeded fourth here, informed the organisers Saturday that a bad case of shin splints made it impossible for him to consider playing five-set matches over the two weeks of the tournament, a spokeswoman said.

The 19-year-old's withdrawal follows that of fellow American John McEnroe Thursday because of an injury to his left shoulder and means only six of the top 10 men will be in action at the open.

It also weakens further the chances of a player from the United States winning the open for the first time since Brian Teacher in 1980. World number four Andre Agassi has yet to play in Melbourne and seventh seed Brad Gilbert is the highest ranked American man here.

But organisers had better news when defending champion Ivan Lendl showed his muscle injury is improving fast. He is almost certain to be fit for the first Grand Slam tournament in 1991.

Sampras has suffered from problems with aching shins and blistered feet since winning the open at Flushing Meadow and while taking out the inaugural Grand Slam Cup in Germany in December.

He entered an exhibition tournament in Adelaide to get used to the artificial rebound ace surface used at the Australian Open, but said after his defeat by world number one Stefan Edberg Friday night his shin was still hurting him.

"I thought coming down here

that the rebound ace would be good for it (the injury) but it's not, and it's not getting any better," he told reporters.

Sampras said he faced a tough decision over whether to play in Melbourne or take several weeks off immediately.

"It just gets a bit sore and gets worse and worse. I'm going to have to make a hard decision. But I want to play."

Lendl, seeded third at the National Tennis Centre, pulled out midway through his first round match at the New South Wales Open this week because of a mystery abdominal injury.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 1072 ♣ 10654 ♦ AK873
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 3 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
A.—Don't let East's preempt freeze you out of the auction. With partner's marked shortage in hearts, your hands should fit well. Also, should the opponents buy the hand, you want partner to lead a club, so bid four clubs.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AQ94 ♣ AQ ♦ AK10742
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Pass 4 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
A.—The most flexible action you can take is to double. If partner elects to pass, you have more than adequate defense; if partner removes to four spades, you should make that in comfort; should North bid five diamonds, you are just going to have to sweat it out.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 65 ♣ Q10654 ♦ K5 ♠ J1095
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ Dbl 2 ♣ ?
What action do you take?
A.—You don't have much, but passing is risky. Suppose West raises the ante to three spades and partner passes. Would you feel comfortable backing in now? Bidding three hearts immediately takes the strain off the partnership.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South

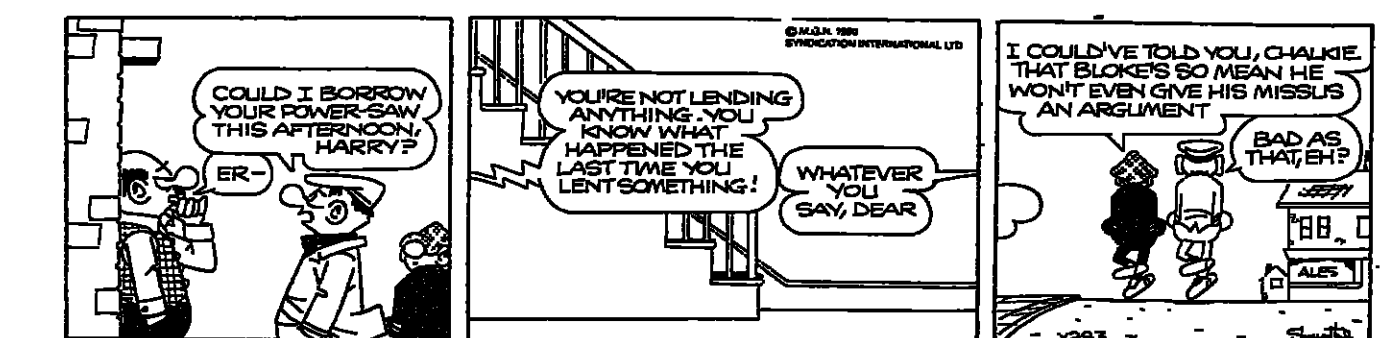
you hold:
♠ 32 ♣ AK85 ♦ AK63 ♠ K62
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?
A.—You have the high-card strength to leap to three no trump, but not the right shape—that bid is reserved for a hand with a 4-3-3-3 pattern—a ruffing value could be all you need for slam if you have a 4-4 fit somewhere. Since you have to start probing, we would bid two diamonds—two hearts shows a five-card suit.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q ♣ QJ42 ♦ AJ ♠ AKJ932
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Your queen of spades has increased in value, and you should try to paint a picture of your distribution. For that reason we prefer the reverse bid of two hearts to a jump of three clubs.

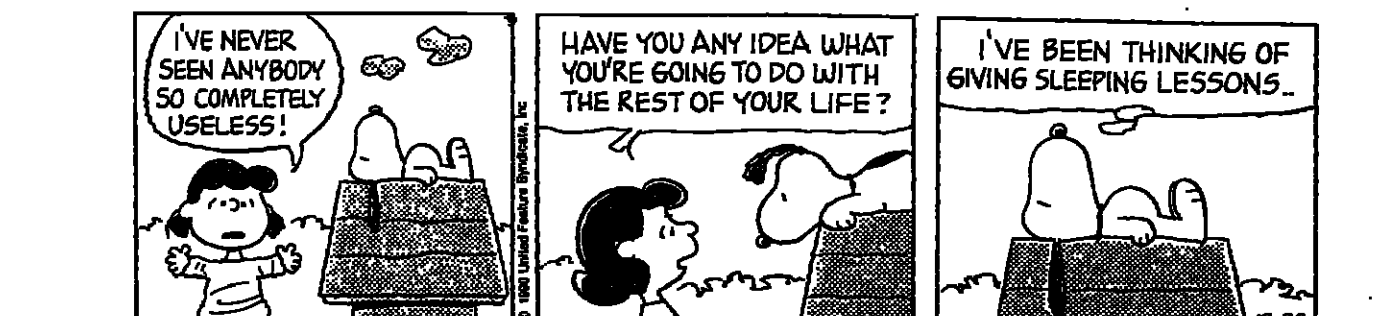
Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ K107 ♣ KQ8 ♦ AQ93 ♠ 1082
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Your fit for both of partner's suits has improved your hand. Don't let North think you are giving a mere preference by bidding three hearts. Jump to four hearts to let partner know you have excellent support for his first-bid suit.



Andy Capp



Peanuts

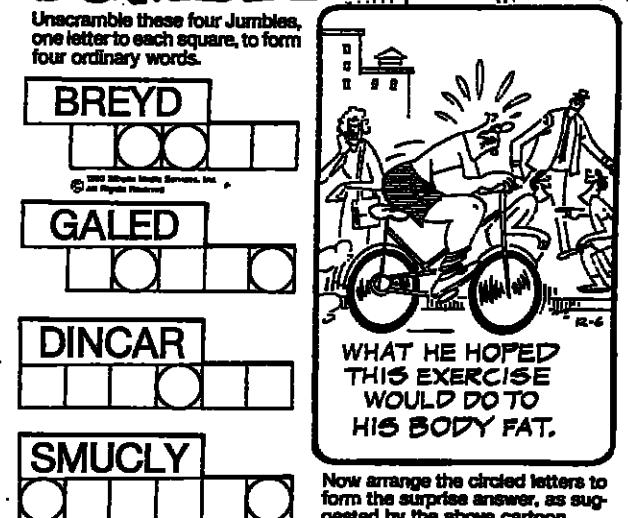


THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

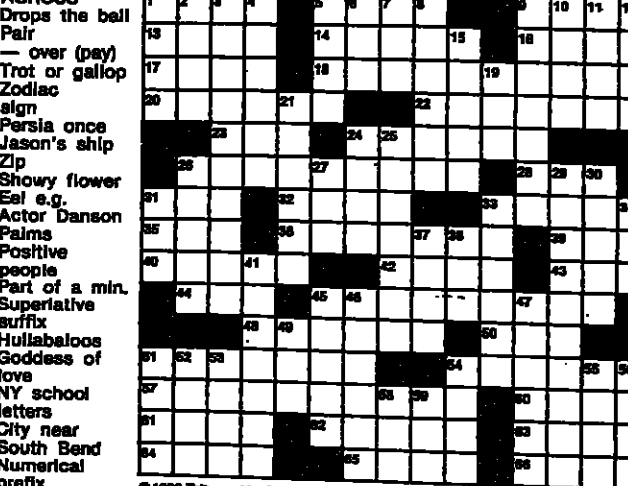


Print answer here: IT
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BASIS FEIGN SCROLL THROAT
Answer: Love at first sight sometimes breaks up at — FIRST SIGHT

THE Daily Crossword

by Elizabeth Arthur



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
1 Across: RIVER
2 Down: FISH
3 Across: RIVER
4 Down: FISH
5 Across: RIVER
6 Down: FISH
7 Across: RIVER
8 Down: FISH
9 Across: RIVER
10 Down: FISH
11 Across: RIVER
12 Down: FISH
13 Across: RIVER
14 Down: FISH
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39 Across: RIVER
40 Down: FISH

Deuxième sondage sur la crise du Golfe

Les Jordaniens ne croient pas à la guerre

Alors qu'approche l'échéance du 15 janvier après laquelle l'intervention armée de la force multinationale est autorisée par l'ONU pour obtenir le retrait des troupes irakiennes du Koweït, 66% des Jordaniens croient encore à une solution politique et diplomatique de la crise du Golfe. C'est ce qui ressort du deuxième sondage réalisé par le Dr Juma Halalshe Farouk avec le Centre des Etudes Jordaniennes de l'Université du Yarmouk à Irbid. La surprise est d'autant plus grande que ce chiffre représente une augmentation de 8 points par rapport au sondage réalisé par la même équipe trois mois auparavant, qui constituait une véritable première dans le Proche-Orient arabe. Leur optimisme sur

Ce sondage qui couvre la plupart des villes et villages jordaniens porte sur un échantillon de 256 familles, soit une famille sur 2.000, et a pour objectif de mesurer l'évolution de l'opinion depuis le 3 octobre, date du premier sondage du Dr Farouk qui portait sur un échantillon de 1.054 familles

jordaniennes (voir «Le Jourdain» du 4 novembre).

Il ressort de ce nouveau sondage que 38% de la population jordanaïenne pense que la situation de non-guerre-non paix que nous vivons actuellement va durer, alors que 28% des personnes interrogées pensent que la solution sera militaire et que

l'issue de la crise n'empêche pourtant pas les Jordaniens de se faire de moins en moins d'illusions sur les intentions américaines. Alors qu'une majorité d'entre eux (46,5%) pensait le 3 octobre que les Américains ne voulaient que prolonger la crise pour maintenir leurs troupes sur place, ils considèrent massivement aujourd'hui (à 43,8%) que les Américains veulent la guerre. Et même si ceux qui pensent que Washington veut la paix représentent 15% de la population aujourd'hui contre 5,5% trois mois plus tôt, les Américains continuent de faire l'unanimité contre eux: 97% des Jordaniens (96,5% en octobre) refusent toujours la présence des troupes américaines et étrangères sur le sol arabe.

15% ne se prononcent pas.

Un examen détaillé du sondage révèle que 97% de la population jordanaïenne refuse la présence des troupes américaines et étrangères sur le sol arabe, contre 96,5% dans le sondage précédent.

Interrogés sur le point de savoir si les Américains étaient favorables à une solution pacifique, à une solution militaire ou à une prolongation de la crise dans son état actuel, 29,5% des Jordaniens

pensent que les Etats-Unis souhaitent maintenir l'état de non-guerre-non paix, contre 46,5% lors du précédent sondage. 15% d'entre eux pensent que les Américains cherchent une solution pacifique et 43,8% pensent qu'ils veulent imposer une solution militaire, contre 5,5% et 35,5% respectivement lors du sondage d'octobre.

Selon le nouveau sondage, 49% des Jordaniens pensent que la présence étrangère

dans le Golfe se prolongera contre 67% lors du sondage précédent.

71,8% des personnes interrogées pensent que si la guerre est déclenchée, les Etats-Unis bénéficieront de l'appui d'Israël et de leurs alliés européens contre l'Irak. 11,8% pensent de leur côté qu'ils bénéficieront de l'appui de certains pays arabes. L'enquête réalisée précédemment auprès de la population jordanaïenne avait montré qu'une intervention conjointe des Américains, des Israéliens et des Européens ensemble était vraisemblable pour 46% des personnes interrogées et que 9,1% d'entre elles considéraient vraisemblable une action conjointe des armées américaines et des armées de certains pays arabes contre l'Irak.

La population jordanaïenne, interrogée sur l'issue de la crise du Golfe, envisage à 66,3% une issue politique et diplomatique, à 21,3% une solution militaire et à 12,4%

d'autres types de solutions. Le précédent sondage donnait 58,8% à la solution politique et diplomatique et 32,8% à la solution militaire.

Pour 65,4% des personnes interrogées, la meilleure formule pour résoudre la crise du Golfe consiste en un sommet arabe, contre 51% lors du précédent sondage. Ceux qui croient plutôt à une conférence internationale pour mettre fin à la crise sont 25,1% aujourd'hui contre 28% il y a trois mois.

Interrogés sur l'influence de la crise du Golfe dans l'évolution de la question palestinienne, 82,8% des Jordaniens pensent qu'elle a permis de faire un pas en avant contre 84% début octobre. Enfin, pour 78,3% des Jordaniens, des changements radicaux vont se produire dans l'avenir, contre 84% lors du précédent sondage.

Dr Juma Halalshe Farouk et Jean-Marc Bordes

EN BREF

Evacuation. Un Boeing 747 affrété par la France pour le rapatriement de plus de 450 ressortissants du Golfe et de Jordanie a terminé son périple dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi en embarquant à Amman 143 Français. Dans le hall de l'aéroport d'Amman, l'ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, Denis Barchard, a salué ses compatriotes, essentiellement des femmes et des enfants, et a souhaité «leur bienvenue». Environ 200 Français, dont une majorité de binationaux, ont choisi de rester en Jordanie.

Alliance. Le Premier ministre jordanien, Moudar Badran, a affirmé mercredi à Amman que le président syrien Hafez Al Assad l'avait assuré que «la Syrie interviendrait aux côtés de la Jordanie si celle-ci est attaquée par Israël». Dans une déclaration devant la Chambre des députés, M. Badran a indiqué que la Jordanie résistera de toutes ses forces contre une intervention aérienne ou terrestre israélienne, ajoutant qu'en cas d'attaque «elle demandera l'aide de l'Irak, de la Syrie et de l'Egypte». Il a estimé en outre que si la guerre éclatait elle ne serait pas limitée et entraînerait la disparition de nombreux régimes, sans préciser lesquels.

Logique. Le gouvernement jordanien a affirmé mercredi à Amman que la Jordanie avait décidé de ne plus accueillir de réfugiés en provenance de l'Irak et du Koweït parce qu'un avion jordanien qui rapatriait des réfugiés vers leur pays d'origine depuis la Jordanie n'avait pas été autorisé mardi à survoler l'Arabie Saoudite. Les réfugiés à bord de cet avion étaient tous d'origine asiatique.

Genève. Le Secrétaire d'Etat américain James Baker a dressé mercredi soir un constat d'échec de ses six heures d'entretien avec le ministre des Affaires Etrangères irakien Tarek Aziz à Genève, déclarant qu'il n'avait décelé chez son interlocuteur «ni souplesse ni nouvelle proposition». Tarek Aziz, quant à lui, a souligné avec insistance l'existence d'un lien direct entre la crise du Golfe et le conflit palestinien, et a déclaré que l'Irak restait prêt à coopérer avec les Etats-Unis si ceux-ci acceptaient d'appliquer la même justice pour tous. James Baker n'a pas rejeté pour autant d'autres initiatives diplomatiques pour résoudre la crise du Golfe de manière pacifique. Le chargé d'affaires américain à Bagdad et les quatre diplomates américains encore présents dans la capitale ont quitté l'Irak hier.

De Cuellar. Le secrétaire général de l'ONU s'est rendu hier à Bagdad après des entretiens à Amman avec le roi Hussein. M. Perez de Cuellar, qui ne dispose pas de mandat de négociation avec les autorités irakiennes et qui ne peut dépasser le strict cadre des douze résolutions du Conseil de Sécurité, pourrait mettre en avant le savoir faire de l'ONU comme force d'interposition pour surveiller un éventuel retrait simultané de toutes les troupes de la région après l'annonce d'une décision irakienne de quitter le Koweït. M. De Cuellar s'était auparavant brièvement entretenu à Paris avec le ministre français des Affaires Etrangères Roland Dumas et à Genève avec les ministres des Affaires Etrangères de la CEE.

Jihad. Lors d'une conférence internationale regroupant tous les mouvements islamistes du monde arabe à Bagdad à l'invitation de Saddam Hussein, le président irakien a appelé à la Guerre Sainte (Jihad) soulignant que la guerre dans le Golfe serait celle des croyants contre les infidèles et du bien contre le mal. «Le Jihad islamique est une obligation pour chaque Musulman, a-t-il déclaré, dès lors que l'Irak ou tout autre pays est attaqué par les infidèles et les hypocrites». Il a ajouté que le roi Fahd d'Arabie Saoudite aurait «mieux fait d'appeler les femmes musulmanes du Hadj et du Hejaz à la Jihad pour libérer Jérusalem que d'appeler des américaines en short pour défendre son régime contre le peuple saoudien». Il a également confirmé que tous les irakiens, y compris les étudiants, les paysans, et les femmes, étaient désormais armés pour la Guerre Sainte.

Expulsion. L'OLP a dénoncé mardi les mesures d'expulsions prises par les autorités israéliennes à l'encontre de Palestiniens des territoires occupés, et a lancé un appel à l'ONU pour assurer la protection du peuple palestinien et mettre un terme à la répression israélienne. L'Etat hébreu avait en effet expulsé mardi vers le Liban sud quatre palestiniens de la bande de Gaza occupée, qui étaient accusés d'être des activistes du mouvement de la résistance islamique Hamas. Suite à différents reports, le Conseil de Sécurité ne s'est toujours pas prononcé sur cette mesure israélienne.

Congrès. Le Congrès des Etats-Unis a entamé jeudi un débat crucial sur le Golfe, qui devait aboutir hier soir à donner au président Bush un feu vert pour l'utilisation de la force contre l'Irak si ce pays occupe toujours le Koweït le 15 janvier. Le sénateur John Danford (républicain) a estimé «impensable» que le Congrès coupe l'herbe sous les pieds du président Bush. «Le Congrès ne peut pas désapprouver ce que pendant des mois nous avons demandé aux autres de soutenir», a-t-il ajouté. Mais les chefs de file de la majorité démocrate, qui penchent pour la patience, ont déposé une autre résolution appelant à la poursuite de la politique des sanctions internationales contre Bagdad, sans exclure l'usage éventuel de la force dans un avenir non déterminé.

Censure. Neuf médias (dont les quatre principales chaînes de télévision américaines) et quatre journalistes (dont l'écrivain américain William Styron) ont déposé jeudi, devant un tribunal de Manhattan, une requête en justice pour annuler les nouvelles règles de couverture d'un éventuel conflit dans le Golfe édictées par le Pentagone. Ils critiquent surtout l'obligation pour les reporters de soumettre leur copie à des officiels chargés de vérifier si elle ne contient pas des éléments utilisables par l'ennemi. L'agence Associated Press s'était de son côté insurgée contre un article du règlement du Pentagone interdisant de fournir des détails sur les pertes et destructions importantes survenant sur le champ de bataille.

Lithuanie. Les troupes soviétiques ont envahi plusieurs immeubles stratégiques de la capitale lithuanienne de Vilnius vendredi, après un avertissement sévère de Mikhaïl Gorbatchev appelant la république séparatiste à se soumettre à l'autorité de Moscou. Les troupes soviétiques occupent notamment le quartier général du département de défense lithuanien et la principale entreprise de presse de cette république. Le Parlement, quant à lui, était toujours hier soir aux mains des nationalistes.

Haiti. Le calme est revenu mardi en Haïti encore traumatisée par la tentative de coup de force de la veille du Dr Roger Lafontant et par le violent soulèvement populaire qui s'est ensuivi: au moins cinquante morts dont quarante dans la capitale et plus de cinquante blessés. A ce bilan s'ajoutent des dégâts matériels importants provoqués par des incendies et des pillages de plusieurs supermarchés, des magasins et des résidences. Le Dr Roger Lafontant, ancien haut responsable des Tontons Macoutes, et ses complices ont été emmenés dès lundi soir au pénitencier national de Port-au-Prince pour y passer leur première nuit de détention. L'armée a fermement démenti, par la voix du colonel Henri-Robert Marc-Charles, commandant du cercle militaire, avoir eu l'intention d'expulser le leader de cette tentative de coup d'Etat qui s'était lundi matin autoproclamé président de la République d'Haïti, quelques jours avant l'investiture officielle du nouveau président Aristide.

Sécurité. Il existe actuellement en France des menaces terroristes a affirmé jeudi le ministre de l'Intérieur français Pierre Joxe. Des mesures de sécurité sont mises en place progressivement en fonction des risques, a-t-il précisé, sans en dévoiler les détails car «leur efficacité dépend de leur confidentialité». Le gouvernement a déjà déclenché depuis une semaine un plan de sécurité pour faire face aux menaces terroristes auxquelles il se trouve confronté du fait de la crise du Golfe.

Iglesias. Après avoir été entouré de fans et de groupes et signé des autographes, Julio Iglesias a comparu mardi devant la Cour Fédérale des Etats-Unis, au premier jour d'un procès qui oppose le chanteur espagnol à un habitant de l'Alabama l'accusant d'avoir plagié ses chansons. Selon l'avocat du plaignant, la chanson de Julio Iglesias «Hey» a été copiée à partir d'une cassette laissée en dépôt par son client ou à partir d'un enregistrement de cette chanson réalisé par un artiste portoricain sur un autre label. Le juge a, tour à tour, entendu le plaignant s'accompagnant au piano entonner son œuvre intitulée «Es» puis un disque de la chanson «Hey» enregistrée en 1980 par Julio Iglesias.

LA SEMAINE...

de Suleiman Sweiss

Sionistes: la peur

Les tambours de la guerre résonnent fort ces jours-ci dans la région. Les yeux se sont braqués sur la crise du Golfe arabe dès avant l'échec des pourparlers de Genève la semaine passée.

Cela n'empêche pas certains d'apporter — inconsciemment — de nouvelles preuves de la nécessité de lier la question palestinienne à la crise du Golfe.

Le 5 janvier, le grand quotidien parisien «Le Monde» publiait un article d'un certain Marek Halter, intitulé «Abdiquez!». Il s'adresse avec insolence au roi Hussein. Pourquoi?... Tenez-vous bien: parce que sa Majesté est «l'obstacle majeur à la paix israélo-palestinienne».

Les deux tiers de l'article sont un rappel historique de la version sioniste de l'histoire suivie par la politique jordanaïenne durant les trois dernières décennies à l'égard du conflit israélo-arabe. En évoquant les événements de septembre 1970, M. Halter ose dire, se moquant des lecteurs, «Israël s'est trompé en n'intervenant pas aux côtés des Palestiniens pour vous renverser». Bref, l'écrivain jadis sioniste de gauche et aujourd'hui sioniste tout court appelle à la création d'un Etat palestinien en Jordanie incluant «une partie de la Cisjordanie».

La lettre sinistre de M. Halter ne semble pas relever d'un point de vue individuel et fortuit car, la veille de sa publication dans «Le Monde», elle paraissait également dans le «New-York Times», ce qui montre qu'elle est censée être largement diffusée et qu'elle est probablement inspirée par les autorités israéliennes.

Mais d'abord, qui est ce M. Halter? C'est un Juif polonais qui vit en France depuis 1950. Peintre avant tout, il se présente aussi comme militant de gauche et publie livres et articles. Dans l'introduction de son ouvrage «Le fou et les rois» (Albin Michel, 1976), il le dit clairement «satisfait des revendications des Palestiniens — qu'il qualifie de minoritaires — est la meilleure garantie de survie physique et morale d'Israël».

Il est inutile de discuter en détail le point de vue sioniste, qui d'ailleurs n'est pas nouveau. Résoudre la question palestinienne au détriment des Jordaniens a toujours été la préoccupation de ces gens-là. Les sionistes, qu'ils opèrent au grand jour ou dissimulés, cherchent depuis toujours les moyens de protéger, renforcer et agrandir Israël. Ils ne se soucient nullement de l'injustice subie par les Palestiniens ni des crimes commis par les dirigeants de l'armée israélienne. C'est la raison pour laquelle Marek Halter ne dit mot de l'intifada dans son article, ni ne justifie la poursuite de l'occupation israélienne en Cisjordanie et dans la bande de Gaza, contraire aux résolutions des Nations-Unies. Si ce silence n'est pas qu'un silence destiné à épargner Israël, il faut en déduire que M. Halter approuve l'annexion des territoires palestiniens par l'Etat hébreu.

Pourtant, l'unité et la solidarité entre Jordaniens et Palestiniens ne donne aucun droit à quiconque de nier le droit du peuple palestinien à l'autodétermination sur la terre de Palestine. La Jordanie n'est pas la Palestine. A maintes reprises, Palestiniens et Jordaniens ont confirmé leur volonté de lutter contre toute solution qui n'impliquerait pas l'évacuation totale des territoires palestiniens occupés depuis 1967 par les troupes israéliennes.

Tout cela est bien connu de M. Halter qui n'en feint pas moins de l'ignorer. De même qu'il sait parfaitement que le sort des dirigeants de chaque pays relève des choix responsables du peuple de ce pays. L'écrivain aurait été mieux inspiré de demander à M. Shamir de démissionner qu'au roi Hussein d'abdiquer. C'est le premier et non le second qui est le véritable obstacle à la paix.

Reste donc à savoir pourquoi cet article est publié aujourd'hui, à ce moment précis. Je crois que les dirigeants israéliens savent très bien que la crise du Golfe amènera, tôt ou tard, au LIEN entre celle-ci et le conflit israélo-palestinien. C'est pourquoi la peur s'empare soudainement des sionistes. Ils sont inquiets des événements qui pourraient se produire dans la région et qui pourraient aller dans un sens contraire à leurs plans. Alors, se sentant coincés, ils ne trouvent d'autre échappatoire — certes stupide et vaine — que de rejeter la responsabilité de leurs problèmes sur les autres. Vraiment, Marek Halter se moque de qui?



«Reporters sans frontières»

Défenseurs de la liberté d'informer

Dans son rapport pour 1990, l'association Reporters Sans Frontières annonce que 36 journalistes ont été tués en exerçant leur métier et 198 emprisonnés pour leurs opinions dans le monde. Des chiffres sensiblement inférieurs à ceux de l'année précédente qui avait battu tous les records, sans doute à cause de la libéralisation de régimes tels que ceux d'Afrique du Sud ou des pays de l'Est. Une occasion de dresser le bilan d'activité et le portrait de cette association d'origine française qui s'est donné pour tâche de défendre la liberté d'informer à travers le monde entier.

«L'année 1989 restera dans la mémoire des journalistes comme l'époque où ils auront perdu le plus grand nombre de leurs par le crime, l'accident, l'assassinat ou l'enlèvement. Terrible constat du grand reporter français Jean Lacouture dans sa préface au «Rapport annuel sur la liberté de la presse», établit cette année-là par l'association Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF).

D'année en année jusqu'à l'exception de 1990, le nombre des victimes s'accroissait: 32 morts en 1987, 45 en 1988, 71 en 1989. Comme augmentait le nombre des arrestations (241 en 1989) ou des expulsions (97) de journalistes. Principal théâtre de ces violences vis-à-vis de la presse: le continent latino-américain: «Des chiffres vraisemblablement en dessous de la réalité» ajoute Robert Ménard, directeur de RSF, dont il est aussi le fondateur.

Pourquoi RSF? C'est une réflexion

des organisations internationales (UNESCO, European Human Rights Foundation). Elle a même essayé dans huit pays, avec des RSF au Bangladesh, en Belgique, au Cameroun, en Espagne, en Italie, en Pologne, en Suisse, en Union Soviétique.

Mais comment se battre sur le front mouvant de la liberté de l'information? Le travail des journalistes «fut longtemps un dur combat contre les pouvoirs établis, la censure d'Etat et les argousins du roi», rappelle Jean Lacouture. Ajoutant: «des pires avanies leur sont infligées désormais par des forces marginales et des hors-la-loi, hommes de main des trafiquants colombiens, terroristes du Sentier Lumineux, maquisards des Philippines, milices fanatiques de Beyrouth».

Voilà qui justifie l'action de RSF. Une action au jour le jour et tous azimuts. Ainsi, chaque fois qu'elle est informée d'une atteinte à la liberté de la presse, RSF adresse des lettres de protestation aux auteurs de violations, qu'il s'agisse ou non de gouvernements, et tous ceux qui peuvent faire pression sur eux. En 1989, l'association est intervenue de cette manière pour défendre 120 journalistes et 24 médias.

RSF invente aussi de nouveaux mouvements de lutte. Par exemple, le parrainage de journalistes emprisonnés. Fin 1989, une centaine de journalistes étaient sous

les verrous dans le monde. A l'initiative de RSF, 45 d'entre eux ont été parrainés par des médias français — journaux, radios, chaînes de télévision — qui se sont engagés à en prendre un en charge: ils en ont parlé sur les ondes, ont mobilisé leurs lecteurs, leurs auditeurs ou leurs spectateurs, sont intervenus auprès des autorités. Trois mois après le lancement de cette opération, 17 de ces journalistes étaient libérés.

Avec le concours de syndicats professionnels de la presse, RSF met aussi en place des jumelages entre médias français et étrangers pour aider matériellement ces derniers à développer une presse indépendante du pouvoir, là où elle n'existait pas. C'est le cas aujourd'hui en Roumanie.

Autre point capital pour être efficace: informer. Chaque mois, RSF publie une lettre d'information qui détaille, pays par pays, les violences commises à l'encontre de journalistes et les atteintes à la liberté de la presse. Chaque année, elle édite un rapport sur l'état de l'information dans le monde. Dates-symboles, événements marquants (comme la révolution roumaine): manifestations internationales: tout est prétexte à faire connaître les avancées et les reculs de la liberté de la presse. Une liberté qui va de pair avec la démocratie.

Claire Thierry

Après quarante ans de gloire

La disparition des Deux-Chevaux

On l'appellait familièrement «la Deuche», la «Deux Pattes», ou encore «Dodoche». Devenue aussi célèbre, ou presque, que Brigitte Bardot, elle faisait partie du paysage français. C'était la «Deux Chevaux» Citroën, voiture révolutionnaire des années 1950, qui fit le bonheur de deux générations de conducteurs.

A la fin de juillet dernier, l'usine de Mangrove, au Portugal, d'où sortaient encore chaque jour quatre-vingt exemplaires de cette vénérable grand-mère, en a cessé la fabrication. Elle n'était plus rentable.

La Deuche a une histoire romanesque. En 1935, un an après la disparition d'André Citroën, l'inventeur de la «traction avant», ses ingénieurs reçoivent mission de «plancher» sur une voiture pouvant transporter deux personnes et 50 kilos de pommes de terre à 60 km/h. Sans dépasser la consommation de trois litres au cent.

Le résultat est un étrange prototype de berline ultra-légère en duralinox et pourvu d'un cil de cyclope. Mais décapotable s'il vous plaît! «Une chaise longue sous son ombrelle», plaisante un de ses concepteurs.

1939. La seconde guerre mondiale éclate. 250 prototypes de la Deuche sillonnent les routes de France encore bordées de platanes. Quand les Allemands envahissent l'hexagone, la vaillante petite «Citron» résiste en se sabordant. Pas question de tomber aux mains de l'ennemi! Tous les modèles existants sont détruits. Sauf un, qui attendra la fin de la guerre sous une meule de foin. Dépêchés de Berlin, des émissaires proposent d'échanger les plans de la Deux-Chevaux contre ceux du prototype de la Volkswagen. «Jamais!» s'entendent-ils répondre.

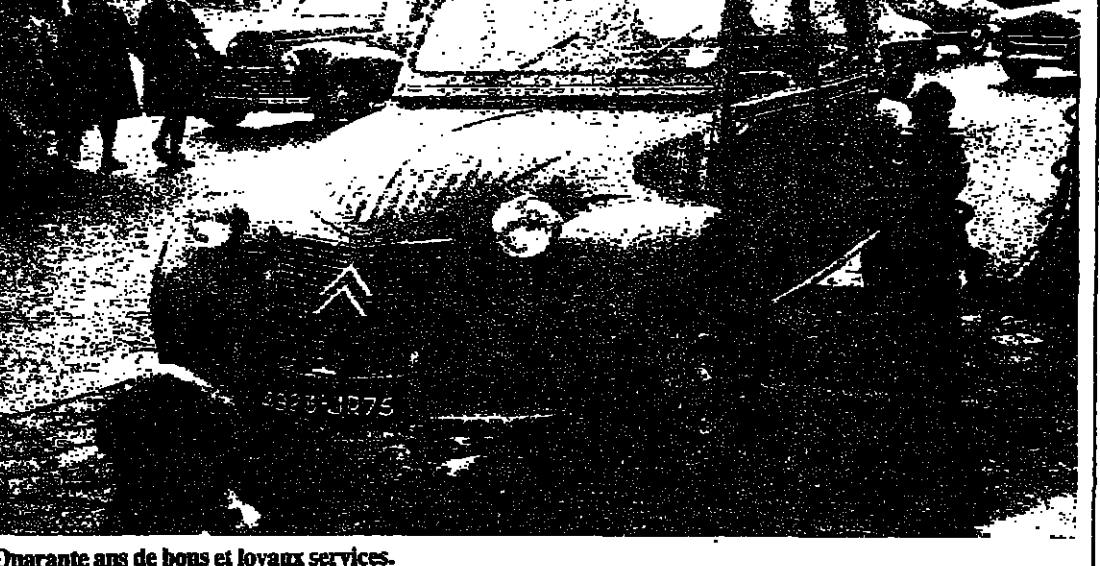
Quelques jours auparavant, ce même modèle, aux essais sur une petite route normande, a été attaqué par trois hommes qualifiés de «gangsters» par la presse. Sérieusement malmené, le chauffeur a dû se résoudre à

ouvrir le capot et révéler les organes intimes du prototype à ces curieux aux méthodes brutales. Un viol! On n'a jamais retrouvé les odieux individus.

Mise en vente au prix de 228.000 F en 1949, la 2 CV fait un malheur. Mais la production ne suit pas: l'aspirant propriétaire doit attendre quatre ans la livraison de son véhicule. Au cours des années suivantes, elle subit diverses améliorations: son moteur passe ainsi de 175 à 425 cm³.

Sur la route, elle fait sensation. Elle hoquette, se cabre au démarrage comme une mule rétive, joue les escarots dans les côtes. On s'y cogne les doigts sous le rabat de la vitre avant. Le cinquième passager — qu'elle accepte car elle n'a peur de rien! — s'ankylose le postérieur sur la barre centrale du siège arrière.

Elle tient du chameau mécanique, la Deuche! Par sa sobriété, mais aussi par sa suspension d'une souplesse sans pareille.



Quarante ans de bons et loyaux services.

Vivre à deux au Moyen-Orient

«La mariée respectueuse»

Pourquoi tant de jeunes gens au Moyen-Orient désespèrent-ils de pouvoir un jour réaliser l'acte simple et vital de former un couple et d'avoir des enfants? C'est que le mariage, dans bon nombre de ces pays, s'apparente souvent plus à un placement coûteux, assorti d'un calcul de rentabilité, qu'à une simple histoire d'amour. Et hors du mariage, mieux vaut ne pas songer à l'amour: il est illicite, déshonorant et immoral.

L'histoire se passe au début de ce siècle. Pour plaisanter, un homme dit à son ami, venu le féliciter pour la naissance de sa fille: «Je te la donne; elle est à toi». En grandissant, le bébé devient une très belle jeune fille et l'ami, se souvenant de la «promesse», du père, exige que celle-ci soit mise à exécution. Le père, pourtant, ne peut s'exécuter car sa fille et l'homme sont de religions différentes. Devant l'insistance du prétendant réclamant son dû, l'Etat de droit n'existant pas à l'époque et l'homme appartenant à une tribu puissante, le père de la petite fille ne trouve d'autre moyen d'échapper à la poursuite que de fuir le pays avec sa femme.

On ne peut pas changer une société sans commencer par en changer les lois. La jeune génération fait aujourd'hui encore, bien souvent, les frais d'une tradition d'un autre âge en matière de mariage.

Des témoignages poignants abondent de nombreux pays du Moyen et du Proche Orient. Les jeunes gens ne se soucient pendant des années que de réunir la somme d'argent que coûte un mariage et beaucoup d'entre eux désespèrent d'y arriver avant un âge avancé. La question de la religion, qui plus est, reste un barrage infranchissable. Il est presque impossible que deux jeunes de religions différentes se marient en Orient, sans des sacrifices qui peuvent aller parfois jusqu'à la mort. «Ca ne vaut pas le coup», disent beaucoup d'entre eux, et rarement les couples de ce genre parviennent à se marier.

Malgré le rajeunissement démographique de nos sociétés, la tendance au mariage est en régression. Certes, la société d'aujourd'hui est plus libérale et les filles sortent de plus en plus. Mais les jeunes hommes n'ont que d'autant plus peur, compte tenu de la morale toujours en vigueur, de tomber sur une «mauvaise fille», c'est à dire, selon la définition généralement admise par la classe moyenne, une fille qui est déjà sortie avec des hommes, a perdu sa virginité, ou a même simplement connu un seul homme intimement.

L'homme d'aujourd'hui cherche encore une fille sainte, dépourvue de toute expérience, particulièrement sexuelle.

Le prix du mariage
Dans une société de type traditionnel, la mariée respectueuse est toujours fière du prestige de ses noces. C'était à l'hôtel H, se vantera-t-elle. La robe a coûté tant. On a égaré tant de moutons. On a payé tant pour la lune de miel (Shaer Alalal en arabe), qui selon une équation distance-condition sociale du marié peut aller de l'Europe (top niveau) jusqu'à Agaba (bas de gamme), ou même être passée à domicile lorsqu'on n'a pas les moyens.

Les difficultés financières, la crise économique et la crise du Golfe ont rendu plus difficiles encore les conditions à remplir pour procéder à des noces. Le protocole du mariage consiste à envoyer dans la famille de la jeune femme une délégation constituée des proches de son prétendant, dont la tâche est de demander officiellement la main de la fille et de fixer la somme de la dot. Cette délégation est souvent précédée de contacts préparatoires informels destinés à assurer de l'accord de la fille et de sa famille.

La dot, en général se divise en droits financiers qui sont dus avant ou après la signature du contrat de mariage. Il y a la dot payable à l'avance et la dot qui est due après le divorce ou la mort. Une partie de cette dot peut être constituée par des meubles ou de l'or. A la signature du contrat, la femme a le droit de demander à son mari le paiement régulier d'une somme d'argent comme salaire, dont le montant dépend des revenus du mari. En Jordanie, la loi en fixe le montant minimum à 35 dinars par mois.

En fait, la femme demande rarement à être payée de la

sorte. Cette clause sert souvent à faire pression en faveur d'un divorce lorsque le couple ne s'entend plus et que l'homme refuse la séparation.

La loi jordanienne prévoit que ce salaire doit être versé tant que le contrat de mariage reste en vigueur et même trois mois après le divorce, pour laisser à l'homme le droit de revenir sur sa décision et lui laisser un délai de réflexion avant que le divorce ne soit définitivement prononcé. Si la femme est enceinte, alors la période préparatoire au divorce dure jusqu'à l'accouchement. Et s'il y a des enfants, le problème se complique notablement.

Au moment du mariage, dans certains milieux traditionnels, la dot s'accompagne de cadeaux à la tante et à l'oncle. La célébration du mariage est souvent conçue comme une sorte de compétition de prestige entre les familles d'une même classe sociale. La femme doit prouver sa capacité à être responsable du ménage, à faire de la bonne cuisine pour satisfaire le ventre de son mari. «Nourris bien ton mari et tu gagnera son cœur», dit-on généralement.

Le mariage est donc difficile mais il reste le seul moyen toléré d'unir un couple. Que faire dans ces conditions? «Jouer» en cachette est toujours possible, mais jamais accepté. Le risque de perdre sa virginité ou de tomber enceinte terrorise les couples qui pratiquent ces jeux interdits. Pour sortir de situations désespérées, des pratiques illégales existent dans la plupart des pays d'Orient, consistant par exemple à rendre artificiellement sa virginité à une fille dans des hôpitaux privés ou à exécuter un avortement. Si quelques médecins acceptent ces pratiques, c'est généralement pour éviter le scandale social à quel- qu'un, mais la loi les punit sévèrement, de peines qui peuvent aller jusqu'à cinq ans d'emprisonnement.

La satisfaction sexuelle ne se réalise que dans le mariage, et les mariages sont chers. Résultat: le blocage et la frustration sexuelle sont énormes. Embrasser une fille, dans la logique traditionnelle, c'est déshonorer sa famille. Le mariage est une affaire d'honneur.

La fille doit épouser l'homme idéal. Et l'idéal mêle parfois, la religion, l'argent, les diplômes, l'élégance, la couleur et la puissance de la voiture. Critères déterminants pour la mariée respectueuse.

Les relations sociales dans une société traditionnelle sont gouvernées par l'ambition de bien marier son fils ou sa fille. Pour les filles, la recherche du mariage est beaucoup plus vitale et pressante, car l'âge rentre pour elle fortement en ligne de compte. La fille, lorsqu'elle avance en âge sans être mariée, commence à s'inquiéter pour son avenir. La société n'accepte pas en effet qu'elle habite seule. Selon la conception traditionnelle, une fille qui vit seule a forcément renié ou été reniée par sa famille: c'est donc une fille de mauvaise vie, sans honneur. Ses parents morts, où ira donc la fille non mariée? Chez le frère, chez l'oncle? Dans tous les cas, son avenir reste incertain.

Le contrôle parental sur les filles se poursuit parfois après le mariage. La mère surtout se charge de lui inculquer des principes dont le but est de garantir l'autorité de la femme (et par là de sa famille d'origine) sur son mari.

Avoir une relation intime li- cite, faire des enfants pour assurer la continuité du clan, voilà ce que le mariage représente encore en Orient. Dès la naissance de l'enfant on pense à son mariage. L'enfant est à la fois un bonheur et un problème: s'il échoue dans ses études ou son travail, le bon mariage est pratiquement exclu. L'enfant est un placement dont le succès se mesure à la qualité du mariage. Voilà qui laisse peu de place au mythe du coup de foudre. Pas plus qu'à celui d'une vie simple, faite d'amour et d'eau fraîche.

Fayçal Alzureigat

Vous écrivez?
Si la plume vous démange, que vous écrivez en français... «Le Jourdain» vous ouvre ses deux pages hebdomadaires. Vos idées de sujets, locaux et régionaux, comme vos suggestions y sont les bienvenues.

Jean-Marc E des, French section, Jordan Times.
P.O. Box 6710. Tél: 667171.

Vents d'est

De jeunes Roumains en France

Petre est Roumain. Il a 11 ans. Devant lui, la baie du Mont Saint-Michel ruisselle de soleil dans la canicule de ce mois de juillet 1990. Petre est heureux. Short blanc, lunettes noires et walkman à la ceinture, il gambade dans le soleil en écoutant Madonna. Comme n'importe quel gamin de son âge.

Petre est l'un des 550 jeunes Européens de l'est accueillis par les Associations Familiales Rurales dans le cadre d'une grande opération: «Mon village ouvert sur le monde». Les associations Familiales Rurales (3.200 associations, 170.000 familles adhérentes) sont à l'écoute des familles du milieu rural et proposent des solutions adaptées aux problèmes spécifiques de leur environnement: garderie d'enfants, centres de loisirs aérés, services de transports scolaires...

Les bouleversements des pays d'Europe de l'est, la situation en Roumanie, les ont fait réagir. Un peu partout dans le monde, des élan de solidarité se manifestent. «Une chose est certaine, rien ne sera plus comme avant. Personne en Europe ne pourra dorénavant borner ses préoccupations au petit carré de son environnement immédiat», écrit Yves Verguet, un responsable national.

C'est ainsi que dans le courant de l'été 1990, 32 fédérations départementales (du Gard à la Meuse, en passant par le Morbihan) ont mobilisé leurs familles adhérentes pour accueillir en vacances 550 jeunes Européens de l'est. Agés de 9 à 25 ans, ils viennent de RDA, de Pologne, de Bulgarie, d'URSS et de Roumanie.

Trois volets dans le dispositif: un accueil de 96 jeunes roumains monté en partenariat avec le Ministère de l'Education à Bucarest. Une participation aux échanges prévus par les accords bilatéraux entre la France, la RDA et la Pologne, et l'intégration à l'opération E.S.T. (Echange, Solidarité, Tourisme) mise en place par le secrétariat d'Etat à la jeunesse et aux sports et le ministère du Tourisme.

C'est la venue de jeunes Roumains en France qui constitue le fer de lance de cette volonté. «On ne veut pas leur en mettre plein la vue, on veut les accueillir, leur faire visiter la région... C'est peut-être des petites choses banales qui vont leur plaire. J'ai hâte de les recevoir, j'ai hâte de leur faire plaisir», explique le président de l'association de Plouay (Morbihan).

De fait, les petits Roumains seront gâtés: corridors, fêtes et expéditions sur l'aqueduc dans le Gard. Classes de mer et randonnées dans



De nombreux jeunes Européens de l'est ont été accueillis en France en 1990.

l'île d'Yeu en Vendée. L'association d'Hébécrevon (Manche) escalade le Mont Saint-Michel par une journée torride de ce beau mois de juillet. Les petits Roumains sont épanouis, heureux, et largement aussi turbulents que les Français.

Valérie, la responsable des petits diables avec un sourire ravi: «Regardez les! Un malheureux ballon, et hop, ils sont partis jouer ensemble! Le foot constitue un grand vecteur des relations franco-roumaines dans les centres de loisirs. Problèmes de langue? Arnaud, un petit gars de 12 ans, entraîne «son» Roumain, Micha, à l'autre bout du champ. «Micha, viens football, vite». «OK», répond l'autre.

Problèmes d'adaptation? «Ca se passe très bien, ils jouent beaucoup ensemble», constate heureuse la mère d'Arnaud. Au début, Micha était un peu gêné, il disait «non à tout». Attitude confirmée par d'autres parents. Gène pour servir d'un morceau de savon (qui coûte l'équivalent de 50 F chez eux). Gène pour donner ses affaires à laver. Stupéfaction devant les bananes, la viande à tous les repas, la maison, la voiture personnelle, la chaîne stéréo. Le décalage est permanent, mais les enfants n'en tiennent pas compte. Heureusement.

Pour les familles françaises, c'est aussi l'occasion d'apprendre et de connaître l'autre. Son pays, sa peur, sa douleur. Même si on ne veut pas en parler, le fantôme de Ceausescu est là. Loana, 12

ans, a offert à sa famille des chemises brodées, des napperons, mais aussi un livre très dur à regarder sur la révolution roumaine.

«Tous les mots qu'elle pouvait savoir elle les a dit», explique Mireille qui héberge Loana. «Affreux, horrible, très triste». Quand on leur parle de ça, le visage des enfants se ferme: «Mauvais», disent-ils. Et les parents français découvrent: les écoutes téléphoniques, les exécutions sommaires, l'impossibilité d'avoir une pensée à soi.

D'où la volonté accrue de créer ces liens si importants. «Ca a été tout de suite le coup de foudre», dit encore Antoinette. «Je prépare Loana au retour en lui disant de nous écrire. Je souhaite vraiment qu'il y ait un échange». Fanfan, le petit garçon de Mireille, a six ans. Son plus beau rêve? Se marier avec Loana quand il sera plus grand...

Arnaud considère Micha comme son copain. Il veut aller le revoir à Bucarest. «J'attends avec impatience le retour. Je vais dire aux collègues l'expérience de nos amis français. On pourra faire la même chose. C'est à quoi je m'attendais de la part du peuple français. Nous sommes très touchés, nous les considérons comme nos amis, depuis toujours», conclut une accompagnatrice roumaine.

L'avion de la Tarom va partir. Les jeunes roumains ont des souvenirs plein la tête. Hier, ils ont visité Paris et contemplé Notre-Dame de Paris illuminée dans la nuit.

Sylvaine Luckx

A L'AFFICHE

Comédie

L'ange au cœur brisé

Bien qu'il soit écrit par Peter Shaffer (auteur d'«Amadeus») et réalisé par Carol Reed (metteur en scène du «Troisième homme»), n'attendez pas trop du film Follow me. Cette comédie, présentée au Centre Britannique le mardi 15, rate son coup.

L'intrigue aurait dû avoir du charme. Elle est de l'étoffe d'un conte de fée. Un mari jaloux embauche un privé pour qu'il découvre l'identité de l'amant de sa femme. Or son soupçon est loin de la vérité: délaissée par son mari, se sentant très seule, la femme passe le temps à flâner dans les rues de Londres sans parler à personne. Peu à peu, elle commence à remarquer le détective et développe à distance un rapport silencieux avec lui. C'est au tour du privé de s'ennuyer, et d'être déçu. Constatant que la femme n'aime que son mari, il conseille à ce dernier de refaire la cour à son épouse, faute de quoi, il est décidé à convaincre la femme d'initier une action en divorce.

Des trois personnages que Peter Shaffer a créés pour nous raconter cette histoire, deux sont crédibles: le mari, Charles Sidley (Michael Jayston) est un comptable réussi, très cultivé, très propre, qui fait la rencontre d'une jeune Californienne au caractère excentrique, Belinda (Mia Farrow). Pour un temps, ils se prennent pour un couple bien assorti. Ce n'est qu'après leurs noces qu'elle découvre que sa belle famille et les associés de son mari — brasseurs d'affaires — la méprisent et que, loin d'être l'homme de ses rêves, Charles a en vue un mariage routinier. Rien ne peut être plus étouffant pour la jeune femme rêveuse qui s'est jetée à tous les vents pour embrasser la vie.

On voit bien pourquoi Shaffer voulait à tout prix que l'homme ouvrant à réconcilier le couple ait l'air d'un original. Le succès de l'intrigue en dépendait. Etonnamment, il a développé en Julius Cristoforou (Topol) un personnage peu convaincant. Il a transformé son Grec à Londres en un personnage comique, beau parleur, aux penchants sentimentaux, qui est toujours en train de faire le clown et dont le souvenir le plus saillant est son inexplicable habitude de manger sans cesse de la nourriture naturelle. C'est un personnage qui manque de définition: on en cherche en vain la finesse des traits de caractère.

Pour sa part, Carol Reed s'est contenté de réaliser les faits présentés par Shaffer et la structure de son scénario — un récit en forme de flashbacks — sans à-coups. Par ailleurs, il n'a pas encouragé les acteurs à explorer ce langage essentiel à l'action du film — le mime — d'une importance capitale pour l'intrigue. Les gestes que se font Belinda et son poursuivant sont réduits par la mise en scène à des gesticulations infantiles alors qu'on apprend dans la suite du film que ces communications muettes ont éveillé les sentiments du détective et donné de l'air à la jeune femme étouffée par le monologue incessant de son époux. Pour les deux personnages, les mots étouffent les émotions et c'est dans le silence qu'ils arrivent à se comprendre. Le mari lui-même finira-t-il par le comprendre?...

Sami Kamal

CONFERENCES

Peinture. Deuxième d'une série de sept conférences (une par mois) par le directeur du CCF, Noël Favrelière, sur l'histoire de la peinture française. Celle de ce mois-ci est consacrée au XVIIIème siècle, de Georges de la Tour à Le Brun. Centre Culturel Français, le mercredi 16 à 18h.

EXPOSITIONS

Eau. Exposition intitulée «L'eau c'est la vie» réalisée par la cité des sciences et de l'industrie de la Villette, près de Paris. L'eau est notre capital vie: sa masse totale sur Terre ne varie pas et pourtant nous sommes plus de cinq milliards à la partager, de façon très inégale il est vrai. Cette exposition abondamment illustrée nous amènera à réfléchir aux grandes questions que l'Homme se pose face à ce bien si précieux, source de vie et enjeu de survie. Centre Culturel Français, jusqu'à la fin du mois.

TELEVISION

DIMANCHE

17h30 - «Dorothée». Feuilletton. L'histoire d'une jeune fille, à la recherche d'un trésor.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - «Faut pas rêver». Documentaire.

LUNDI

18h00 - La Camorra. Série policière.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

MARDI

18h00 - «Denver le dernier dinosaure». Dessin animé.
18h30 - «Fusion». Magazine documentaire.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - «Aujourd'hui en Jordanie». Magazine local préparé et présenté par Saleh Madi.

MERCREDI

18h00 - «Thalassa». Le magazine de la mer.
18h30 - «Sixième gauche». Troisième épisode d'une série de 50 qui raconte la combustion, dans le même immeuble, d'une famille de Français d'origine algérienne et d'une famille franco-française. Loin du télé-réalisme, l'objectif des réalisateurs de cette série est de traiter avec humour de ce thème rarement porté à l'écran sous forme de fiction.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - «Carnet de notes». Extraits de musique classique.

JEUDI

18h00 - «Savory». Dessin animé.
18h30 - Splendeur sauvage. Documentaire sur la vie des animaux.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Reportage d'actualité.

VENREDI

18h00 - «Pour tout l'or du Transvaal». Troisième épisode d'une série documentaire en six parties consacrée à la lutte qui oppose les soldats britanniques aux fermiers hollandais au début de ce siècle en Afrique australe.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - Histoire de l'art. Série documentaire.

SAMEDI

18h00 - «Quand la science mène l'enquête». Documentaires scientifiques.
19h00 - Le Journal.
19h15 - «Carnet de notes». Extraits de musique classique.

CINEMA

Follow me. Film de Peter Shaffer et Carol Reed avec Mia Farrow, sorti en 1971. L'étrange relation qui se noue entre une jeune femme et un détective privé engagé par son mari pour la prendre en flagrant délit d'adultère. Le thème du film est en fait la difficulté de communication de certains couples au sein de la société moderne. (Voir FOCUS) Centre Britannique le mardi 15 à 17h.

Sans toit ni loi. Film d'Agnes Varda avec Sandrine Bonnaire et Gérard Lacroix, sorti en 1985. La solitude d'une jeune femme, son errance et sa mise sur les routes de France. Centre Culturel Français, le lundi 14 janvier à 20h.

Etude sociologique

La fringale culturelle des Français

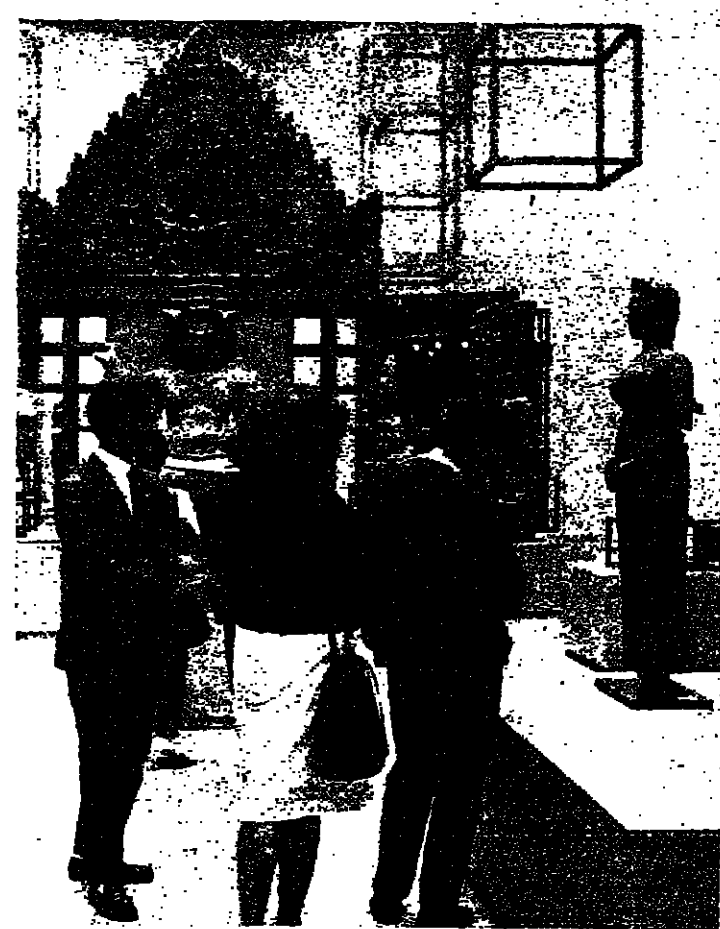
Boulimiques, les Français. De culture. C'est ce que dévoile le très sérieux état des lieux publié en 1990 par le ministère concerné, à la suite de trois longues enquêtes menées sur «Les pratiques culturelles des Français», en 1973, 1981 et 1988. 5.000 personnes ont été interrogées à l'aide d'un questionnaire de 35 pages.

Le résultat de cette enquête donne de quoi se réjouir, certes, mais aussi de quoi s'interroger. Car les dizaines de milliers de chiffres compulsés par les experts révèlent une profonde modification du comportement des «consommateurs». Au grand dam des tenants d'une vision traditionnelle — d'aucuns diraient élitiste — de la culture.

Du côté des amateurs d'art, au sens classique, c'est en effet le grand recul. Les fidèles du théâtre? On les comptera bientôt sur les doigts de la main: de 25% de la population qui, en 1973, fréquentaient assidûment les salles, on passe, quinze ans plus tard, à 15%. Pire: 55% avouent n'avoir jamais assisté à une représentation théâtrale ou vu d'exposition de peinture, sculpture, photo... Le nombre de spectateurs de cinéma chute aussi dramatiquement et les trois-quarts des personnes interrogées n'ont jamais assisté à un concert de musique classique ou à un spectacle de danse. Un comble dans un pays où, idées et crédits à l'appui, l'Etat et les communes (dont les dépenses culturelles ont doublé en dix ans) font des efforts considérables pour promouvoir les artistes et l'art sous toutes ses formes.

La lecture, elle, perd régulièrement du terrain. Si 62% achètent au moins... un ouvrage dans l'année (contre 51% en 1973), un Français sur quatre n'a lu aucun livre en 1988. La proportion de «forts» lecteurs baisse régulièrement, notamment chez les jeunes (14-24 ans). Recul plus apparent que réel? Car on lit autrement: on feuillette, on consulte. Ce que confirme la forte poussée des manuels pratiques, des guides, des magazines. Et des bandes dessinées, dévorées par 83% des jeunes... et 70% des cadres supérieurs!

Vers l'optimisme, l'enquête met en évidence un déplacement du public — un public plus jeune et plus nombreux — vers des activités qui connaissent un boom considérable. Ainsi, l'écoute de la musique a progressé de manière spectaculaire. Un Français sur deux en écoute tous les jours et les jeunes s'en abreuvent chaque jour. Jazz, chansons de variétés, rock ou opéra, cette fringale touche tous les genres musicaux.



Certains jeunes raffolent des visites de musées.

Une confirmation: l'omniprésence de la télévision. Un Français sur deux — et dans toutes les catégories sociales — la regarde tous les jours. Les réfractaires du petit écran diminuent d'année en année (10% en 1988). Mais contrairement à ce que l'on aurait pu penser, le gros des consommateurs (ceux qui absorbent plus de trente heures de télé par semaine) ne se détournent pas des autres activités: ils lisent — au moins dix livres par an — et ils visitent beaucoup de monuments historiques. Les vieilles pierres et les musées attirent d'ailleurs plus du quart de la population.

A l'origine de cette forte poussée dans les domaines de l'image et du son: la multiplication des chaînes et des programmes, le développement de la radio FM et les mutations technologiques. La révolution de l'électronique a, en effet, donné naissance au magnétoscope (qui possède aujourd'hui 25% des Français), à la haute fidélité, au disque compact, au baladeur qui équipe les oreilles de 67% des jeunes.

Pour ce qui concerne la «démocratisation», ce rêve caressé depuis trente ans par tous les ministres de la Culture (comme André Malraux qui voulait «rendre accessible au plus grand nombre les œuvres capitales de l'humanité»), le bilan est mitigé. Des «exclus», il y en a toujours. Pour des raisons matérielles (éloignement géographique, questions financières) ou psychologiques. Mais ils sont moins nombreux qu'auparavant, grâce à la télévision, à l'école, à la multiplication des équipements culturels — bibliothèques, conservatoires, ateliers d'initiation artistique — mis en place par les pouvoirs publics.

Preuves d'un véritable engouement pour les activités culturelles: le doublement du nombre d'amateurs (14% des Français dessinent, 18% jouent d'un instrument de musique) et le succès des manifestations lancées depuis quelques années, comme la Fête de la Musique, la Fête du Livre, ou encore les journées «portes ouvertes» dans les monuments historiques.

N'en déplaise aux grincheux et aux nostalgiques de la culture savante, la situation n'est pas si catastrophique: trois

Claire Thierry

Indian industry hit by Gulf crisis and political instability

NEW DELHI (R) — The Gulf crisis and a year of political turmoil have choked India's industrial production and are likely to slow down economic growth, analysts and industry officials said.

Industrial production is likely to grow four to five per cent in the financial year ending March, 1991, down from 8.7 per cent in 1989/90, said P. Panandiker, secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

"Industrial production between September and December (1990) was almost stagnant," he told Reuters.

"The first six months of 1991/92 will be rather difficult, though there could be better growth in the latter half. I would be happy with a six per cent growth in industrial production," Panandiker said.

The government raised petrol prices by 25 per cent and cut oil distribution by 15 per cent last October after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August, driving up world oil prices.

The Gulf crisis came amid a year of political unrest with a change of government, Hindu-Muslim riots and growing separatist violence in the states of

Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Assam — a key oil-producing state.

"Strikes and demonstrations have disrupted the movement of goods and services, causing short-term sectoral imbalances," said Lipi Pal, an economic analyst with the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

The costs of basic materials such as steel and coal have increased and investments have slowed down, she said.

Economists say the gross national product (GNP) — the country's total output — is expected to grow about a real four per cent compared with earlier government forecasts of five per cent. GNP grew 4.5 per cent in 1989/90.

Industry has been growing steadily and now accounts for about 27 per cent of India's agriculture-dominated economy.

The only bright spot in India's economy has been the agriculture sector, which is likely to show high production for a third consecutive year of good rains in 1990/91 after the devastating drought of 1987/88, economists said.

They said besides higher oil prices, Indian industry has also

been plagued by problems in domestic energy output.

Coal supplies were affected by strikes in mines, especially in the main northeastern coal-producing state of Bihar, and transportation problems throughout 1990.

Shortages of rail wagons and diesel for trucks hampered the movement of coal to other parts of India.

The energy problem was worsened by mismanagement of power plants which saw many plants running at about 48 per cent of capacity in 1990/91 compared with 56 per cent in 1989/90.

About 22 per cent of power production is lost in transmission and distribution, the economists said.

"The problems caused by the Gulf crisis have been aggravated by the failure of domestic energy sources to keep up with normal growth," Panandiker said.

The worst-hit industries were transport and cement. Higher petrol prices cut car sales, while the output of cement, an energy-intensive industry, has been hit by higher costs and irregular power supply.

Panandiker said there has been relative calm since the

minority government of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar took office in November, and fears that India's unity was threatened have since faded.

He said industrial production has been severely hampered by import restrictions imposed after the Gulf crisis.

India's industrial houses are required to pay higher margin deposits to the government before importing raw materials at a time when many of them are facing a credit squeeze from banks.

"Government officials have pressed the panic button too quickly. They had no money and the natural reaction was to cut imports," Panandiker said. "Import reductions are necessary but they should not be imposed indiscriminately."

India's foreign reserves at end-October fell to \$2.04 billion — less than a month's imports — from \$3.12 billion a year ago while its trade deficit has widened to \$2.44 billion in April-September 1990 from \$1.91 billion a year ago.

The government is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for a large loan to help alleviate its foreign exchange problems.

Financial panic grips Turks

ISTANBUL (R) Turkish investors, rattled by the Gulf crisis, rushed to withdraw cash from banks Friday, forcing the central bank to impose higher commissions on foreign banknote sales, bankers said.

The bank raised fees on dollar and mark banknote sales sharply to 2.5 per cent from 0.15 per cent, angering bankers because of a severe liquidity crisis.

Tayfun Bayazit, executive vice president at the large private Yapi Kredi Bank said: "Panic has gripped the market. Clients are at the door. We can't tell them to panic."

"We just have to do our best to pay their money. If we don't it will do nothing but create more panic," Bayazit told Reuters.

"Everybody wants to withdraw hard currency and banks are running short of it. Some are declining to sell while others are offering cheques instead," said one senior banker.

Turmoil spread to the lira interbank market where a record volume of central bank sales worth more than \$500 million fell short of demand from banks trying to keep up with huge deposit withdrawals.

State Minister Isin Celebi advised caution. He told reporters in Ankara: "There is no need to panic. One must wait for the markets to come to a balance."

But one Ankara banker said: "Everybody wants to feel the warmth of money in their pockets."

Clients rushed to banks all across Turkey but bankers said withdrawals were higher from branches in the southeast region bordering Iraq, where Turkey has reinforced troops, tanks and armoured vehicles to deter possible attack.

A senior Ankara banker estimated hard currency withdrawals so far at around 10 per cent of Turkey's total foreign exchange deposits of about \$6 billion.

Japan central bank to keep current high interest rates

TOKYO (R) — The Bank of Japan (BOJ) will maintain the current high interest rates now that they are finally beginning to show some effect on the economy, BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno said in an interview published Saturday.

The mass-circulation daily newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun said Mieno denied that high interest rates have had a bad effect on the economy despite the drop in stock market prices and the rise in corporate bankruptcies.

Mieno told the newspaper Friday that the BOJ had not received complaints from foreign central bank governors that Japan's interest rates were too high.

"If some country's financial policy causes the dollar to collapse, then we would have to do something," the BOJ chief was quoted as saying.

Currency levels are the items to watch in determining whether international cooperation in financial policy is necessary, Mieno said.

"Of course, we will make the appropriate responses should conditions change drastically in the ... Gulf after Jan. 15," Mieno was quoted as saying, referring to the United Nations deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait.

IEA unveils emergency oil plan as war looms

PARIS (R) — The West's energy watchdog, the International Energy Agency (IEA) Friday unveiled an emergency supply plan aimed at cushioning its members from oil shortages in the event of a Gulf war.

Under the plan, which would be set into motion as soon as fighting broke out, an extra 2.5 million barrels of oil per day (b/d) would be released onto the world market — about 6.6 per cent of the West's daily consumption of 38.1 million b/d.

Up to 80 per cent of this would come from stocks already built up by members, IEA Chairman Geoffrey Chipperfield told a news conference.

Countries would use other measures, such as steps to restrain oil demand, to meet the target, but the plan did not depend on increasing oil production in the Gulf, he said.

The IEA's governing board, meeting to agree policy ahead of the United Nations' Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, said that current stock levels were healthy.

The 24 members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) currently have about 470 million tonnes, or 3.6 billion barrels, of oil stockpiled. This is some 16 million tonnes more than a year ago and close to a previous peak touched in 1981.

But the agency, set up after

the 1973 oil shock to safeguard oil supplies to the West, said an outbreak of war could heighten market volatility and it was prudent to prepare a concerted reaction to deal with possible shortages.

Earlier, the European Community's top energy official said oil stocks were adequate but rationing would still be necessary in the event of war.

Energy Commissioner Antonio Cardoso E Cunha said individuals and businesses would have to reduce consumption to make up for lost imports from Saudi Arabia.

A U.N. embargo imposed after the invasion of Kuwait removed four million b/d of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil from the world market.

IEA Executive Director Helga Steeg said she would ring members to tell them to set the plan in motion as soon as fighting broke out.

"I have by my night-table a complete list of their phone numbers and I can assure you I can reach them within hours. I've done it before," she told journalists.

Members would then have 15 days to implement the plan. Ten days after notification the governing board would meet to decide whether the 2.5 million barrel figure was appropriate.

Steeg said a figure had not been easy to fix but IEA officials

were convinced that a precise number was needed to reassure the oil markets and lend the plan credibility.

"No-one knows what the shortfall will be. But we need a kind of yardstick for member countries to know what their contribution is," she said after the conference.

A question mark still hangs over what steps the IEA would take if a Gulf war lasted long enough to deplete its stocks. The agency has never been forced to resort to its emergency management system, which shares out supplies among members.

The system would come into force once normal supplies to one or more IEA members have been cut by at least seven per cent.

Oil industry analysts in London said the IEA plan should help ease the nerves of an oil market on war alert. They reckon such a release would be more than enough, given the commonly held view that Iraqi attacks would be unlikely to penetrate the defences massed around Saudi Arabian oil installations.

Saudi output, about 15 per cent of total world supplies, is currently running at around 8.3 million b/d.

Peter Nicol, analyst at Warburg Securities in London, said if the contingency plan were put into action it would kill off any oil price panic.

Albania examines pay, price reform

VIENNA (R) — Albania's communist authorities emerging from decades of Stalinist isolation, plan to reform the country's price and wage system, state radio has reported.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said a commission had been set up to carry out a "radical consideration of the problems of prices and wages."

"The aim of this study is to further improve the prices and wages system in accordance with the introduction of the new economic mechanism in our country," the radio said.

Albania's three million people have an average monthly wage of 400 to 500 larks (about \$65). Companies are state-owned and the main industry is processing agricultural raw materials, textiles and oil products.

German unemployment rises

BONN (R) — Unemployment rose in both eastern and western Germany in December, but the federal government says it is not worried by the figures.

The increase in unemployment in the western part of the country — the first monthly rise since July — was due exclusively to seasonal factors, federal labour office president Heinrich Franke has said.

And the strained job market in what used to be East Germany, where thousands of inefficient state-owned firms are radically restructuring in a bid to avoid collapse, is expected to start improving later this year, he said.

In December, 1.78 million people were out of work in western Germany, up from 1.69 million in November, but well below the 2.05 million in December 1989, Franke said.

Average western German unemployment over all of 1990 fell seven per cent to 1.88 million

workers from 1989's average, the first time since 1982 that the average was under two million people, Franke told a news conference in Nuremberg.

No annual figures are available for eastern Germany, where 642,182 people, or 7.3 per cent of the region's workforce, were unemployed in December, compared with 589,178 in November.

An additional 1.8 million eastern workers were registered on short-time work, a government halfway house between employment and joblessness, up from 1.71 million in November.

"The ... restructuring of the economy is continuing to have a strong effect on the labour market in the five new eastern German states," government spokesman Dieter Vogel said in a comment on the unemployment data.

"At the same time, there are encouraging signs such as the creation of new jobs, as well as rising participation in ... retraining programmes," Vogel said. He

pointed out unemployment had been exacerbated by seasonal factors in December.

The Bonn government was still optimistic that the economy of eastern Germany would bottom out during the course of the year, he said. The resulting economic upturn would also lead to an improvement of the situation on the labour market.

Wolfgang Vogt, economics ministry secretary, also said unemployment in the east was now rising less quickly. In December, joblessness rose 8.9 per cent, compared to a rise of 9.8 per cent in November and 20.7 per cent in October.

Franke noted that commuting by eastern German workers to jobs in the west, where the labour market is continuing to boom, had a positive effect on unemployment in the east.

In the longer-term, however, this phenomenon could have a negative effect on the overall labour market, he said.

IMF offers \$1.8b loan to Prague

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has offered Czechoslovakia \$1.783 billion worth of loans, the first since the new non-communist government rejoined the organisation last September.

The money will be available over the next 11 months. About \$611 million will be disbursed at once. The rest will go out in four separate slices. Any of these can be held back if the Czechoslovak government fails to meet agreed conditions, as is the fund's usual practice.

It was expected that the fund's decision to lend will encourage private lenders and investors to

come forward with even larger sums.

Last February, the fund made \$775 million available to Poland, and in March \$230 million to Hungary — two other eastern European countries emerging from communist rule. One official pointed out that Czechoslovakia's reserves are much lower than Poland's or Hungary's, so that its need is greater for outside help.

The Soviet Union also wants to join the fund, but a report made public last month urged that it take more steps toward a market economy before it can borrow. U.S. President George

Bush has proposed that the Soviets get only a new kind of associate membership, without borrowing rights. The United States is the most influential of the 151 member governments.

In Czechoslovakia, President Vaclav Havel's government won praise from the fund both for last year's policies and a new set that took effect Jan. 1. It noted large increases provided in spending this year for people who will be hurt by expected slowdown and unemployment.

"Foreign participation in the privatisation process will be actively encouraged," the fund noted.

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Application forms may be obtained from the school (telephone 845572) and should be returned by 25th January 1991.

Troops seize Lithuanian targets; pro-Moscow group demands power

Yeltsin voices 'serious concern', urges immediate talks

VILNIUS (R) — Soviet paratroopers seized key targets in rebel Lithuania early Saturday and a pro-Moscow Committee for National Salvation said it would take power, defying the elected government's demand for full independence.

The shadowy committee's rhetoric and tactics were reminiscent of Soviet moves ahead of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, which crushed a reformist government.

Soviet troops Friday and early Saturday unleashed a series of armed assaults on strategic buildings around Lithuania, deepening the crisis in the break-away republic.

The powerful Russian Republic, led by populist politician Boris Yeltsin, expressed "serious concern." The republic, the Soviet Union's biggest, urged the Kremlin to end a military crackdown in the Baltic and called for immediate negotiations.

Latvian parliamentary leaders accused Moscow Saturday of launching "military terror" in neighbouring Lithuania and threatening the entire reform process in the Soviet Union.

A Committee for National Salvation in rebel Lithuania was announced earlier by the ideology chief of the territory's tiny pro-Moscow Communist Party.

It claimed the support of the industrial workforce, which is

largely ethnic Russian and Polish.

And it implied it has the backing of the Soviet Armed Forces which went into action in Lithuania over the last 24 hours.

"In these conditions, the Committee of National Salvation of Lithuania considers its duty to take full power into its own hands in order to prevent economic collapse and fratricidal war," it said in a statement.

"We declare that Lithuania is a Soviet Socialist Republic, developing within the USSR and defending the achievements of democracy and human rights."

The statement gave no details of who made up the committee, but its style recalled events preceding the Soviet Bloc repression of the "Prague Spring" reform-era in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who sent the paratroops into Lithuania, has condemned the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia as improper interference in the affairs of a sovereign country.

Latvia's parliamentary leadership branded the Kremlin action as "military terror" and the Estonian parliament — also bent on independence — denounced "pro-imperial forces" arrayed against the legally elected Baltic governments.

Yeltsin, populist leader of the giant Russian Federation, de-

nounced the Kremlin in a blistering statement, painting the broad outlines of a possible anti-Gorbachev coalition taking shape on the left.

"The use of the armed forces against the peaceful population in the Baltic republics is impermissible. It can cause an escalation of violence in this and other regions, and unleash large-scale civil conflict," he said in a statement.

Yeltsin's defiance robs Gorbachev of any justification that his tough tactics in the Baltics have broad support and could serve as a rallying point for other opposition forces.

The Russian broadside was issued as Gorbachev's Federation Council, formally comprising republican leaders, met in the Kremlin to discuss future relations between the centre and the 15 republics.

It followed renewed action by the Soviet military early Saturday, when paratroopers backed by 20 armoured vehicles, seized a police station, centre for a special anti-crime force, outside Vilnius at 3 a.m. (0100 GMT), local police officials said.

Four of the 40 officers inside climbed through a window and escaped but communications with the building were cut.

Later, police said, part of the Soviet force split off and seized a branch of the Lithuanian Police Academy in a strategy clearly

designed to remove one of the few formal obstacles to a crackdown.

At the red-brick Central Academy, officers preparing for a possible assault, hauled dozens of rifles and ammunition from the building, tossed them into an unmarked car and sped off to keep them from Soviet soldiers.

"The only true force in the Republic of Lithuania is being liquidated," said Zignas Baisvila, a member of the Lithuanian parliament and chairman of the Committee on National Defence.

Ideology chief of the small pro-Moscow Communists, Juozas Jermolavicius, announced the Salvation Committee and told a news conference the army would serve as guarantors of the Soviet constitution in the republic.

The big show of force followed Gorbachev's warning that direct rule from Moscow could be introduced if the republic did not submit to Soviet power.

The Soviet parliament, meeting to debate the Gulf and other issues, agreed to discuss the Lithuanian crisis after deputies demanded an explanation of the use of Soviet troops.

"I think we ought to know what our paratroopers are doing in Lithuania. They should be above politics," said radical Ukrainian deputy Vladimir Chernyak.

Poland alarmed by Soviet crackdown in Vilnius

WARSAW (AP) — Poland watched with alarm as Soviet troops moved in on neighbouring Lithuania, and appealed for a peaceful solution while supporting the Baltic republic's independence goals.

The Polish Foreign Ministry summoned the Soviet embassy's charge d'affaires to discuss Poland's concerns, the Polish News Agency (PAP) reported.

Meanwhile, the parliament and senate passed resolutions offering Lithuanians "all humanitarian assistance" and calling on Soviet authorities to "fulfill their declarations about creating peaceful conditions for nations to determine their political existence."

"As a neighbouring country, Poland is following with concern the development of the situation in Lithuania," said a statement released by the Foreign Ministry.

The statement's careful wording suggested Poland does not wish to offend either side in the conflict.

"The government of the Republic of Poland has expressed its support for the justified aspirations of the Lithuanian nation. Poland remains vitally interested in preserving peace and tolerance in our region. Such a state of affairs lies in the interest of Europe as a whole."

"The government... believes all controversial issues should be decided without the use of force, exclusively through peaceful means, especially by talks and negotiations between the interested sides," the statement concluded.

Poland, although supportive of Lithuanians' independence goals, has not formally recognised the republic's sovereignty.

Instead it tries to walk a narrow line: Balancing the need for good relations with the Soviet central government with a desire — based in part on Poland's own history under the Soviets — to support the people striving for independence.

A Lithuanian parliament member tearfully appealed to the Senate for help Friday.

"I have come here from Lithuania to ask you to rescue Lithuanian freedom," pleaded Lithuanian Deputy Czeslaw Okinczyk. "The freedom for which the Lithuanians have been fighting for more than 40 years, and which as a result of the world's indifference they could not regain fully, is to be taken away from them again."

Recalling the martial law crackdown in Poland in 1981, he said his country was facing the same dilemma, and asked lawmakers to recognise Lithuanian independence.

However, the resolution stopped short of that.

Poland has been making contingency plans for a possible flood of refugees, but officials have privately conceded they could do little in the event of a Soviet military occupation of Lithuania.

Bulletins about the situation across Poland's border dominated news reports.

The Citizens Movement for Democratic Action, a political party growing out of Solidarity, called for creation of a fund "to help Lithuania."

The speaker of the Polish senate, Andrzej Stelmachowski, spoke to Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis by telephone, and later relayed Landsbergis's report of bloodshed in the Lithuanian capital and fears its parliament would be seized.

Gun, grenade attack kills 35 in S. African township

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Thirty-five people were killed Saturday when gunmen sprayed bullets and hurled hand-grenades at supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) in the black township of Sebokeng outside Johannesburg.

The unidentified gunmen in a car opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles on about 300 ANC supporters at dawn as they held a funeral vigil in a tent for a murdered ANC member, police spokesman Colonel Johan Mostert said.

"There was screaming and chaos," said one witness, Rachel Ncube, the aunt of the murdered man.

Pools of blood marked the grounds outside Ncube's house where the tent had stood.

The attack was one of the deadliest in six months of violence between rival political groups in townships around Johannesburg.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the spear and gun battles, South Africa's worst urban violence in years.

Mostert said at least 35 people were killed and 29 wounded in the attack. Officials at Sebokeng hospital reported at least 40 people had been wounded by a variety of weapons including shotguns, AK-47s and hand-guns.

Mostert said two hand-grenades were used in Saturday's attack and 70 spent cartridges from AK-47s had been found at the scene. The gunmen had apparently escaped in their car.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok expressed shock and outrage at Saturday's attack and said everything would be done to track down the killers.

The mourners had been staging a vigil at Rachel Ncube's home in preparation for the funeral later Saturday of ANC member Mphikeli Christoffel.

Mangalembé, found strangled on Jan. 5 after he had been kidnapped by unidentified gunmen.

"We were preparing to bury Christoffel, now we have many more to bury," Ncube said. People in the tent flung themselves to the ground when the first shots rang out, she said.

Enoch Maseko, who lives across the road from the scene of the attack, told the South African Press Association (SAPA) news agency he was awake and having a drink at the time.

"Lots of innocent people were killed," Maseko said. "I will never forget this day as long as I live."

Many Sebokeng residents said Saturday's killings had been carried out by "vigilantes," a term for black thugs hired by white authorities to intimidate anti-apartheid activists.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said the ANC believed the attack had been carried out by Mangalembé's killers.

The community in Sebokeng had been warned that such an attack would take place, she said.

Police sources said they believed Mangalembé had been killed by the anti-apartheid Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), a radical rival to the ANC group. The PAC denies the charge.

The PAC and the Azanian People's Organisation — two anti-government groups whose followers have fought battles with ANC activists in recent months — condemned Saturday's attack.

Sebokeng was a flashpoint for Johannesburg's township violence last year. Much of the violence in Sebokeng and the rest of the country's industrial heartland was between township residents loyal to the ANC and migrant workers sympathetic to the ANC's main rival, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

Polish Sejm approves new Solidarity cabinet

WARSAW (R) — The Polish parliament Saturday overwhelmingly approved the new cabinet of radical free-market economist Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki.

After a day-long debate Friday over the government's programme, 272 deputies of the Sejm (lower house) voted to approve the cabinet and only four against it while 62 abstained.

"Our programme is the market economy," Bielecki told the assembly, before it approved his 19-strong cabinet in which only two members have had no Solidarity union affiliations.

Many of the 60 deputies who spoke in the debate attacked Bielecki's farm policy and former Communists urged him to do more for ailing state industry and a growing army of unemployed. Many criticised his plans

for faster privatisation of state enterprises.

But Bielecki told legislators that he would not hesitate to close down unprofitable factories and that the sale of state-owned factories, which form 90 per cent of Polish industry, was inevitable.

"Privatisation is not a political choice but a necessity of the Polish economy," Bielecki said. Bielecki, 39, has named what he calls a "government of continuation and breakthrough" to build on the achievements of his Solidarity predecessor, Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The retention as Finance Minister and Vice-Premier of Leszek Balcerowicz, author of Poland's radical economic programme, signals that the new government will stick firmly to the path of free-market reform.

Mozambique rebels accused of violating ceasefire

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — Mozambican rebels have ambushed a private truck carrying people to work and killed four civilians, their fifth violation of a ceasefire agreement signed on Dec. 1, news reports said.

The Mozambican News Agency (AIM), quoting official Radio Mozambique, also reported three other clashes involving rebels in the past week.

In the latest assault, Renamo bandits Friday morning attack a company truck carrying workers

to their jobs near the city of Beira, AIM said. In addition to the four deaths, 10 people were injured.

On Tuesday, AIM said Renamo fighters attacked another company vehicle, leaving three people wounded. Both attacks occurred within the Beira Corridor, which links Zimbabwe to the Mozambican city of Beira and is one of two regions covered in the Dec. 1 truce agreement. The other is the Limpopo Corridor, another major Zimbabwe-Mozambique route.

people with those skills, recommended that at the very least exemptions from government pay scales and similar benefits be granted to 10 per cent of its employees.

The committee, which had been appointed jointly by NASA and the National Space Council, had 15 major recommendations and Truly said a number of studies based on the space agency.

"These efforts will provide us with the solid foundation of information needed to make well-informed decisions in order to implement other advisory committee recommendations, all of which we take very seriously," Truly said.

NASA's announcement pointed out that some of the recommendations require action by the White House or Congress and may depend on sufficient money being made available.

NASA plans to redesign space station

WASHINGTON (R) — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has said it will go back to the drawing board to design a simpler, less costly space station as recommended by a panel of experts.

NASA Administrator Richard Truly announced the new review less than a month after the completion of a year-long reassessment of the space station design.

The Advisory Committee on the Future of the U.S. Space Programme on Dec. 10 recommended that the space station "be reconfigured to reduce cost and complexity" and that an existing 90-day time limit on redesign should be extended if needed.

Truly agreed to the extension, but did not say how long it will be. Managers of the programme were meeting Friday to decide how to proceed and were not available for comment.

Space station planning began

in 1984 as an \$8-billion project but cost estimates grew over the years to \$37 billion without any major structures being built. The European Space Agency and Japan signed on to build modules that would be attached to the space station truss.

Truly said NASA is moving to implement these other recommendations of the panel:

— Space science will remain as NASA's priority.

— A joint NASA-Department of Defence task force will study development of a new booster rocket to be used by both agencies.

— A personnel system will be worked out "that recognises NASA's special requirements for attracting and retaining top scientists, engineers and other specialists."

The committee, noting that the space agency is not competitive with industry in attracting

Soviet Federation Council calls political solution in Lithuania

MOSCOW (R) — President Mikhail Gorbachev's top executive body said Saturday that political means should be used to settle problems in the rebel Republic of Lithuania.

TASS news agency said Gorbachev's revamped Federation Council decided at a meeting to send a delegation to investigate the situation in the republic, where troops have seized key buildings and a pro-Moscow committee has pledged to seize power.

Reporting on the meeting, TASS said: "As a result of the discussion it was deemed vital to decide the emerging problems in the republic by political methods."

It said a delegation would be sent to the Baltic republic, including Levon Ter-Petrosyan, and Nikolai Demetiev, chairman of the parliaments of Armenia and Byelorussia.

TASS said the meeting was attended by all 15 Soviet republics. It did not indicate what Gorbachev, who chairs the council, said during the session.

Ter-Petrosyan, a former nationalist activist in Armenia, was elected leader of his southern republic last year, taking over from the Communists.

Last year he won Gorbachev's confidence in a showdown between Moscow and Armenia by guaranteeing security in the republic during confrontations between Soviet troops and armed paramilitary groups. Unrest in the republic has since declined sharply.

The Federation Council was given executive powers under constitutional changes approved by the Soviet parliament last month.

It is made up of leaders of all the republics and is intended to involve the disparate Soviet regions in decision-making.

The council's agenda included discussion of a proposed new union treaty, tying the republics to the Kremlin "centre", which Gorbachev says will give them the freedoms they seek.

But the Baltic republics and Georgia have refused to sign such an accord and Russia, among others, has expressed deep misgivings.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin Saturday met the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Jack Matlock, who later told reporters of his concern over events in the Baltic republics. Washington has never recognised their forced incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940.

The Russian Federation made three key demands in its appeal to the Kremlin:

— Withdrawal of troop reinforcements recently sent to the Baltics

— Guarantees from the union leadership not to use force to resolve differences

— Immediate talks between the union leadership and lawful representatives of the republics in a search for compromise.

The statement concluded with a thinly disguised warning to Gorbachev over his apparent

swing back towards Communist conservatism. It said:

"The presidium expresses its assuredness that reason will win the upper hand and the Baltic republics will not be made an arena of civil conflicts, a bridgehead in the offensive of reactionary forces striving to establish dictatorship in the country."

In Washington, ten U.S. senators urged President George Bush Friday to make clear to Moscow that U.S.-Soviet relations would suffer unless it changed its hardline policy towards the Baltic republics.

"Our government must make it absolutely clear to Moscow that our involvement in the Gulf does not in any way diminish our commitment to Baltic freedom," the senators, led by Donald Riegle, said in a letter to Bush.

They said Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "must know that U.S.-Soviet relations will suffer — including the suspension of economic benefits to his country — unless Moscow replaces its current aggressive tactics with good-faith negotiations on the restoration of Baltic independence."

The senators urged Bush to raise the issue of a forced conscription as a violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

A separate Senate resolution introduced by Democratic Senator Bill Bradley called on Gorbachev to refrain from "unacceptable coercive tactics" against the republics, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.

Kremlin clamps down on media

MOSCOW (AP) — The State Broadcasting Company has indefinitely canceled its most controversial television programme and tried to shut down an independent news agency operating from its premises, officials said.

The steps, which occurred as Soviet troops seized buildings in the secessionist republic of Lithuania, seemed to reflect a chill in the policy of greater media openness, or glasnost, that Mikhail S. Gorbachev began when he took office nearly six years ago.

Poytor Reshetov, deputy director of the State Television and Radio Committee, or Gos-telradio, indefinitely suspended broadcasts of the television programme Vzgl'yad, or Viewpoint, said Andrei Shepilov, a producer.

"Today, Vzgl'yad will not be broadcast," said Shepilov, referring to the regular Friday evening broadcast of the weekly news and cultural programme. He and Alexander Lyubimov, the programme's executive producer, said the show would be off the air "for an indefinite time."

The Information Ministry of the largest Soviet republic, the Russian Federation, said in a statement that central government steps against the press were "acquiring a sinister colouring. It is undisguised pressure against journalists."

The Russian Ministry, headed by Mikhail Poltoranin, called the steps against the mass media "a tragic result of the political investigation of hatred in the search for internal enemies."

"It's a farce," Shepilov said of the official reasons given for the cancellation. He charged officials were trying to curtail the programme's political commentary.

The indefinite cancellation of "Vzgl'yad" broadcasts was likely to have an immediate impact on millions of viewers nationwide. Twice previously during the past month, authorities refused to broadcast the programme, which has been criticised by conservatives for its advocacy of political and economic reforms and its frank treatment of Soviet social ills.

One of the pulled episodes dealt with the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, widely known as a reformer and architect of the end of the cold war, warned in his resignation speech that "dictatorship is coming" to the Soviet Union.

Milosevic sworn in as Serbian president

BELGRADE (AP) — Hard-line former Communist Slobodan Milosevic was sworn in as Serbia's president Friday and he prepared for talks with his political rivals to try and patch together a splintering Yugoslavia.

But his Slovenian counterpart said agreement among leaders of the country's six republics was "far away."

Milosevic, a former Communist whose party now calls itself Socialist, took his oath of office at the opening session of Serbia's first freely elected parliament in five decades.

The session came one day after he agreed to bilateral talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Slovenian President Milan Kucan.

Fuads between Serbia and the centre-right governments of Slovenia and Croatia have added to the ethnic, religious and political problems tearing at Yugoslavia's fragile federation.

Agreement between Serbs and Croats, the two largest ethnic groups, is particularly vital.

On Friday, Yugoslavia's supreme court ordered a stay on any moves by Slovenian authorities toward a possible secession from the federation until an agreement is reached on the future makeup

of the country. In a plebiscite last month, Slovenians opted overwhelmingly for full independence from Yugoslavia.

Kucan told Slovenia's leading daily, Delo, that Thursday's meeting of the republics was "a major step forward, because the majority... very clearly presented their views on how to tackle and solve the crisis."

However, he said: "A common view on how to solve the problem of living together is still far away... unless differences are overcome," according to the report.

The six-hour talks were held in "an atmosphere of frankness and tolerance," the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported. A second round of multilateral talks is due under the auspices of the collective federal presidency on Jan. 23.

At this week's talks, Kucan also agreed to meet President Alija Izetbegovic of the central Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Further meetings among leaders were expected, Belgrade Radio said.

Serbian officials will begin meeting Croatian officials as soon as next week, and later will talk with the Slovenians, said a Ser-

bian official who refused to be named. He did not know the level of contacts to be made.

Both Croatia and Slovenia, where centre-right parties ousted Communists from power in elections last spring, favour turning the current federation into a looser association of sovereign states.

But Serbia has demanded that power be centralised in Belgrade, the federal and Serbian capital.

Milosevic, who won a landslide victory last month, was given a standing ovation by deputies of his Socialist Party at the end of a 3½ hour parliamentary session.

The Socialists won 194 of the parliament's 250 seats among opposition claims of massive ballot-rigging and manipulation of electoral lists.

Foreign observers said they had seen only minor irregularities during the elections.

Behrudin Nesifi, an ethnic Albanian deputy elected from outside Kosovo, claimed Serbian delegates in that province won less than 1 per cent of the registered votes.

Ethnic Albanians, who account for about 90 per cent of the population in Kosovo, boycotted the vote to protest the republic's decision to deprive them of self-rule last year.

COLUMN

7,231 more AIDS cases found in December — WHO

GENEVA (R) — AIDS cases rose by 7,231 in December, reaching a global total of 314,600 in 153 countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Tuesday. The United States with 2,560 new cases, and two African countries, Zimbabwe and Uganda, reporting 2,111 and 1,853 new cases respectively, accounted for most of the increase. The U.S. overall tally rose to 154,791. Uganda's total climbed to 17,422, the highest on the African continent, which has reported 81,019 cases overall. European cases mounted by 383 to 41,947. The WHO says in monthly totals of newly reported cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) often fluctuate because some countries report more regularly than others. The organisation estimates the true global total may be more than 1.3 million. There is at present no known cure for the disease which is spread mainly by sexual contact and contaminated blood and kills by destroying the body's natural defence system.

Princess Anne to divorce next June

LONDON (R) — A British newspaper has said that Princess Anne and her estranged husband Captain Mark Phillips are to divorce in June next year. Buckingham Palace declined comment on the report, which is described as speculation. The tabloid Daily Mirror said Phillips, 42, had already received at least \$250,000 (\$475,000) from Queen Elizabeth, Princess Anne's mother, provided he remains silent about the split. Princess Anne, 40, and her husband separated in August 1989. A divorce would formally end their 17-year marriage. In the years before their separation they made no secret of living separately. Phillips was often absent or attending to his riding school in Scotland, while the princess's official schedule kept her away from home for weeks at a time. Under the reported divorce deal, Phillips would continue to have the use of a house on the couple's Gatcombe Park Estate, west of London. He would also be allowed to continue farming the estate as a tenant and be assured of a "reasonable relationship" with the royal family if he sticks to the agreement, the newspaper said. The report said Phillips, who has full access to their children, Peter, 13, and Zara, nine, has accepted the terms of the settlement as inevitable.

'Horror stories' to deter Swedish smokers

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish authorities have proposed tobacco products carry skull-and-crossbones warnings and "horror stories" about people who died from diseases linked to smoking. Margareta Haglund, in charge of the Board of Social Welfare's tobacco unit, said Thursday it wanted the tough warnings printed from 1992 on packets of cigarettes, cigar, pipe and loose tobacco and snuff. One proposed drawing shows skulls and crossbones rising into the air from a cigarette. It carries the message: "Tobacco smoke contains arsenic, lead, cadmium and many other harmful elements." For the first time, the government board wants cigarette cartons, which contain up to 300 cigarettes, to carry case histories of smokers who died. The tobacco industry will be allowed to contest the board's recommendations, Haglund said.

Soviet TV drops current affairs programme

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet television authorities have temporarily dropped a controversial current affairs programme after twice vetoing items on the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The State Committee on Television and Radio, in an order made available to Reuters Thursday, suspended Vzgl'yad (Viewpoint), which has an audience of 90 million, for two weeks. The weekly programme was twice banned from showing reports about Shevardnadze's resignation last month, apparently because the issue is regarded as politically ultra-sensitive. Vzgl'yad producers have blamed attacks on the programme on what they see as general drift to the right in President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies.